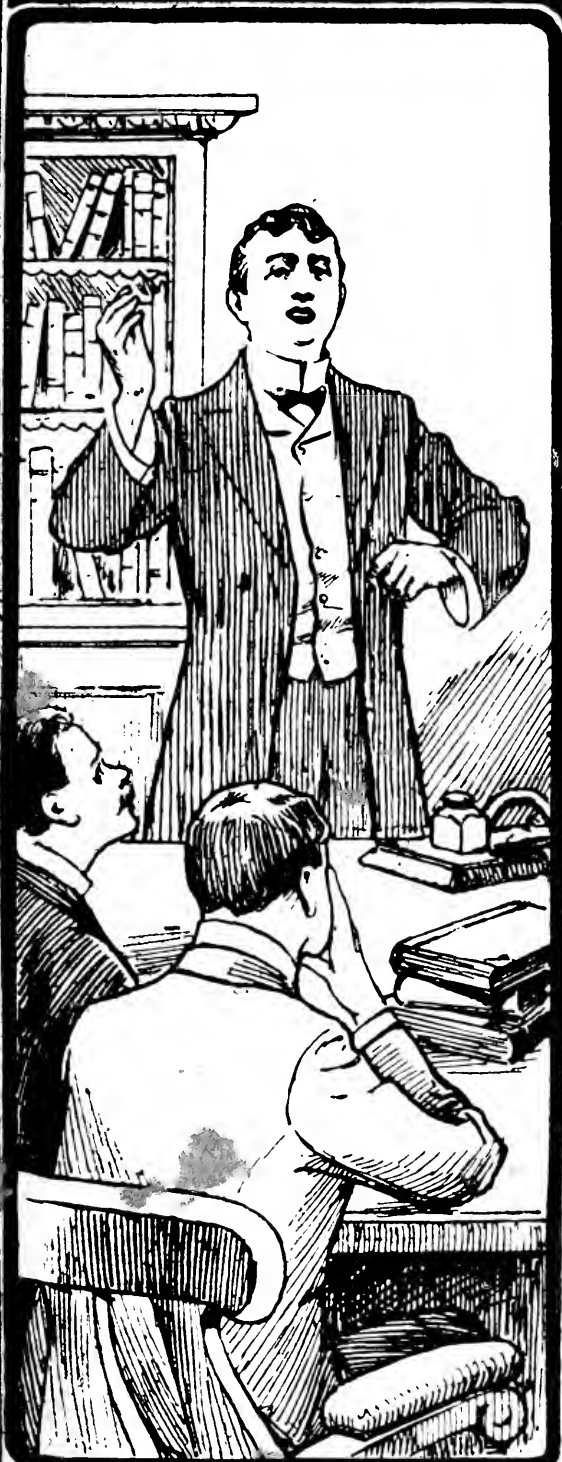


J. H. Harrison





# HOW TO READ WRITE AND DEBATE



## Principal Contents

How to Read to Profit  
Hints on the Choice of Books  
How to Write an Essay  
How to Make Money by Writing  
Mutual Improvement Societies  
How to Conduct a Meeting  
The Laws of Debate  
Subjects for Essays  
How to Prepare for a Debate  
Subjects for Debate  
Facts and where to find them  
Hints on Public Speaking  
Helpful Books for Essayists  
and Debaters  
Local Parliaments  
Magic Lantern Exhibitions  
Hints for Readers and Readers  
Fellowship Associations  
Reading Circles  
Dramatic Societies  
Musical Evenings and  
Meetings  
&c. &c.

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# HOW TO READ, WRITE, AND DEBATE.

(NEW AND ENLARGED EDITION.)

Published by the Proprietors of the "People's Journal."

## HOW TO READ TO PROFIT.

**T**HERE are more readers to-day than at any previous period of the world's history, yet it is to be feared that there are not better readers. In the hurry and bustle of the age, with its innumerable periodicals and its increasing stream of newspapers, it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain the repose of mind necessary for the appreciation of the masterpieces of literature. It is from these masterpieces, however, that the greatest benefits and the most lasting joys are to be derived. If we are to read to the greatest profit the major portion of our reading time must be given to the great books of the world. "Art is long and time is fleeting," wrote Longfellow, and upon no one does the truth of this saying press more heavily than upon the lover of literature as he contemplates the vast extent of the good reading which is to be overtaken. Even a little thought will convince him that all that life will allow him to undertake will be an infinitesimal portion of the whole.

### Careful Selection Imperative.

It is obvious, therefore, that he must have recourse to careful selection. The good must be winnowed from the bad, the best from the mediocre. But how is the young and inexperienced reader to perform this selecting process? To begin with, he should have recourse to what may be termed the tools of literary students. Such a book, for example, as the English Literature Primer of the Rev. Stopford-Brooke, M.A. (Macmillan & Co. : 1s), will give him a fair idea of the range of our literature. Let him select the department of letters which most appeals to his sympathies, and begin to study the leading works in that department. As he reads he will find his outlook widening. New realms of knowledge will open before him; new trains of thought will be suggested. Each book intelligently read will

be a stepping-stone to other books, and thus, almost before he is aware of the fact, the young man will have become a reader who is reading to profit. A good idea of the relative positions of our more recent writers may be got from "Chambers's Cyclopædia of English Literature," new edition, edited by David Patrick, LL.D. The third volume deals with the Nineteenth Century. The work costs half a guinea per volume. Saintsbury's "Nineteenth Century Literature" (Macmillan: 7s 6d) should also be read.

### No Lack of Advice to Readers.

Of advice in regard to reading there is no lack. Although it may be true that in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, the young reader will find that a little sound advice mastered and put into practice is more valuable than a huge mass of miscellaneous suggestions disconnected and ill-assorted, and tending only to confusion. Among those who have offered advice on reading few have done so good service for earnest readers as Mr Frederic Harrison, whose article entitled "The Choice of Books" is full of the most valuable suggestion, and will richly repay careful study. He is most emphatic as to the necessity for choice. "In the wilderness of books," he says, "most men, certainly all busy men, must strictly choose." The habit of reading wisely, he acknowledges, is one of the most difficult habits to acquire, needing strong resolution and infinite pains. "It needs a strong character and a resolute system of reading to keep the head cool in the storm of literature around us. . . . To organise our knowledge, to systematise our reading, to save, out of the relentless cataract of ink, the immortal thoughts of the greatest—this is a necessity, unless the productive ingenuity of man is to lead us at last to a measureless and pathless chaos. . . . I am very far from meaning that our whole time spent with books is to be given to study. Far from it. I put the poetic and emotional side of literature as the most needed for daily use."



### Read the Great Books First.

Mr Harrison goes on to speak of the delights of Homer and Scott, and to regret that their works are not more assiduously read. He would have readers devote their attention to the great writers first. "I am for the school of all the great men and I am against the school of the smaller men. . . . The busy world which does not hunt poets as collectors hunt for curios, may fairly reserve these lesser lights for the time when they know the greatest well. . . . We need to be reminded every day how many are the books of inimitable glory, which, with all our eagerness after reading, we have never taken in our hands. It will astonish most of us to find how much of our very industry is given to the books which leave no mark, how often we rake in the little of the printing press, whilst a crown of gold and rubies is offered us in vain."

### Reflect as Well as Read.

It is not enough to read good books or even great books. We must read them thoughtfully if we are to share in the benefits which they bestow. "The great point," said Henry Ward Beecher, "is to read nothing without reflection." We have to understand clearly what we read, and we have to make it our own. We should read with dictionary and reference books at hand, and should pass nothing about which we are doubtful until we have honestly attempted to make it clear. An excellent plan to impress the salient facts of a book upon the memory is to make extracts of the matter read. The discussion of a book with a friend also does much good. To pause and reflect at the foot of each page and to ask what thought or fact of value it contains is likewise a helpful practice.

### Reading should give Pleasure.

While discipline, and even severe discipline, is necessary to make a man a good reader, he should take care not to allow any false idea of duty to force him into a course of uncongenial reading. A subject which is distasteful is not likely to be mastered. There is wisdom in the advice of the American, Lyman Abbott—"Begin with what is congenial. Choose not what you ought to know, but what you want to know." The same advice is given in the third of Emerson's three well-known rules for reading. They are:—"First, never read any book that is not a year old. Second, never read any but famed books. Third, never any but what you like." It will be noticed that Emerson puts this rule last, and if the two preceding rules are followed it will be found that the advice is scarcely so complaisant as it

seems. Sheriff Campbell Smith, of Dundee, whose shrewd witticisms are widely known, lecturing on "Reading," has said the most general advice he could give was to read either for pleasure or culture, to read with all the faculties awake as long as they could follow the writer with unflagging interest, and when interest ceased, to lay down the book and try something else. As to methods of reading, he would recommend none. Every reader must find out what suited himself.

### Each Reader must Choose for Himself.

"A man ought to read just as inclination leads him, for what he reads as a task will do him little good." So said so great a reader as Dr Samuel Johnson. Each human being has an individuality of his own, and with differing tastes and powers it is impossible to prescribe a course of reading suitable for every one. To a very large extent we must do our own choosing. But freedom of choice is not meant to lead us to dispense with application and method. The aimless jumping about from book to book is not likely to result in much permanent benefit. "Desultory reading is the bane o' lads. Ye maun begin with self-restraint and method, my man, gin ye intend to gie yoursel' a liberal education." So said Sandy MacKaye to Alton Locke in Kingsley's novel of that name. "The wise student," says Mr John Morley, "will do most of his reading with a pen or a pencil in his hand. He will not shrink from the useful toil of making abstracts and summaries of what he is reading."

### JOHN BRIGHT'S FIRST SPEECH.

About the year 1832 several young men, among whom were my three elder brothers, John Bright, Oliver Ormerod, and Thomas Booth, formed a Rochdale juvenile temperance band. Their plan was to set off on summer evenings to walk to outlying villages, such as Smallbridge, Whitworth, Lower Place, &c. . . . Of one such meeting Ormerod gave the following account. . . . He (Oliver) was Chairman. When it came to Bright's turn to speak he had somehow got all his notes mixed up, and was quite confused. Seeing this, Oliver, giving him a hint to sit down, said—"Now, we'll sing a good temperance song." When half through he whispered to Bright—"Just leave your notes on the form and say whatever comes into your head." John Bright followed his advice, and after one or two deliberate sentences he got into the swing of it, and made a capital little speech. That was his first speech made without notes, the first really extemporaneous speech he ever made.—"Threads from the Life of John Mills, Banker."



## HINTS ON CHOICE OF BOOKS.

As the space for these notes on the choice of books is extremely limited, it will be impossible to do more than to indicate in a general way the lines upon which a student ought to make a beginning. The advice given is put forward in no dogmatic way, but merely as suggestions which, it is hoped, will prove useful to beginners. The great thing is to develop a love for good reading. When once it comes the young reader will soon be able to guide himself. Taking in rotation the various departments of literature, let us begin with

### HISTORY.

We should all know something of the history of our own country, and in Britain we are fortunate in having had a writer who has told the story of our nation's growth, with deep insight, full knowledge, and in fascinating literary style. A wonderful book is John Richard Green's "Short History of the English People." (Macmillan. 8s 6d.) The young man who reads and digests it will not be meanly equipped for the performance of the duties of a citizen. Its study is sure to lead to other studies, both literary and historical. For these, admirable references in the way of authorities are given in the book itself, and we are likely to go from it to the study of other English historians—Freeman, Palgrave, Stubbs, Hume, Froude, Gardiner, Lecky, Macaulay, &c. For periods in which we may be specially interested, supplementary reading may with advantage be engaged in, and for this such series of books as Macmillan's "Twelve English Statesmen" (2s 6d each), Macmillan's "Men of Action" (2s 6d each), and Longman's "Epochs of History" will be found easily accessible and very valuable. Carlyle's edition of "Cromwell's Letters and Speeches" is a book which should not be overlooked. Green's History only comes down to 1815. For our history since then we have to trust to various writers. The "Student's History of England," by Samuel Rawson Gardiner (Longmans & Co., 12s) is a very serviceable work. That portion dealing with the period from 1689-1901 can be had in a separate volume for 4s. Mr Gardiner has also prepared "A School Atlas of English History" (Longmans & Co., 5s), and this will be found an invaluable aid to study. The Victorian period will be found dealt with in considerable detail in Periods IV. and V. of the History of England by the Rev. J. Frank Bright, D.D. (Longmans & Co., 6s and 4s 6d each respectively). The

"Nineteenth Century Series" of Messrs W. & R. Chambers (5s each, net) contains several useful volumes. Messrs Chatto & Windus have done good service to historical students by adding to their St Martin's Library (cloth 2s net, leather 3s net, per vol.) Justin McCarthy's "History of Our Own Times" in three volumes. Other historical works by the same writer can be had in the same series. Macaulay's "History of England" is now accessible in very cheap editions. Messrs Longman's Popular Edition, in two volumes, costs 2s 6d per volume. Cheaper still is Everyman's Library (J. M. Dent & Co.), three volumes at one shilling each net. McCarthy's "Short History of Our Own Times" is published by Chatto & Windus in a popular edition at half a crown and in a cheap edition at sixpence. The latest edition of Cassell's "Illustrated History of England" comes well up to date. The growth of our Empire will be more clearly grasped after the reading of Professor Seeley's "Expansion of England" (Macmillan, 4s net). Turning next to

### GENERAL HISTORY.

our attention had better first be directed to Greece and Rome. Macmillan's shilling primers by Fyfe and Creighton respectively will form admirable introductions. E. A. Freeman's primer on Europe might also be studied with advantage. Then might come more advanced books:—Freeman's "General Sketch of European History" (Macmillan, 3s 6d), Gilman's "Rome" in the Story of the Nations Series (Fisher, Unwin, 5s), Curtius' or Grote's "History of Greece." Grote's History is now included in Everyman's Library, 12 vols., 1s each, one of the marvels of modern publishing. There is one supremely great work to which the student will turn with reverence—Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." To the lover of history it is anything but dull reading, yet its length makes its perusal a task of no small magnitude. Messrs Methuen have published an edition in one shilling volumes (cloth 1s 6d), which has the advantage of possessing the notes of Prof. J. B. Bury. A student's edition is published by Mr Murray in two vols. at 5s each. Among other great histories which may be mentioned are Motley's "Dutch Republic," Prescott's "Mexico," Bryce's "Holy Roman Empire," and Carlyle's "French Revolution." Before reading the last-named, the student would do well to go through a simpler work on the same subject such as that in the Epochs of History Series. Motley's work can be had in three vols. of Everyman's Library, at one shilling each, and Carlyle's work in

two volumes. Messrs Routledge publish an edition of Prescott's works at 3s 6d per vol. In the light of modern history, several of the volumes of the Story of the Nations Series are particularly interesting. Among these may be mentioned—"The Jews," by J. K. Hosmer; "Russia," by W. R. Morfill; and "Germany," by Baring-Gould. Akin to history is

### BIOGRAPHY.

A most fascinating study is this, for, as Goethe says—"Man is properly the only object that interests man." The study of such a work as Plutarch's Lives throws a new light upon Greek and Roman history. Carlyle's "Cromwell" enables us to understand the great Puritan revolt. Around Napoleon, Wellington, and Nelson are grouped the leading events of the great struggles between France and Europe at the beginning of last century. The present generation is particularly fortunate in the number and variety of excellent biographies which can be had in cheap form. What a stimulus it is to read the lives of such men as Captain Cook, Lord Clive, Sir Francis Drake, General Gordon, Sir Henry Havelock, Lord Lawrence, and David Livingstone as we find them portrayed by skilful pens in the Men of Action Series (Macmillan, 2s 6d each). As regards the lives of literary men, we are well served by the English Men of Letters Series (Macmillan: First Series, 1s each sewed, 1s 6d each cloth, 2s net each, Library edition; New Series, 2s net each) and the Great Writers Series (Walter Scott Publishing Co., 1s 6d each). While these books are read and enjoyed, the greater works of biography should not be neglected. There is Boswell's immortal "Life of Johnson" now to be had in excellent type for two shillings in Everyman's Library (Dent). There is Lockhart's "Life of Scott" (Popular Edition, unabridged, 3s 6d, A. & C. Black), which brings us into contact with one of the manliest, cheeriest, and bravest of men. There is Stanley's "Life of Arnold," which recounts for us the words and actions of a great teacher and a good man. There is the "Life of Charles Kingsley," told by his wife—an inspiring book. There is the "Memoir of Norman Macleod, D.D.," by his brother, Dr Donald Macleod. There is the "Life of Frederick Denison Maurice," told by his son. There is the "Memoir of Alfred Lord Tennyson," by his son (Macmillan, 6s). Many other great biographical works there are, including the admirable "Life of Gladstone," by John Morley (Macmillan, from 10s net); but our space is exhausted, and we must pass on to

### POETRY AND THE DRAMA.

In these "realms of gold" the student will journey as fancy leads him. For lyrical poetry he will find Professor Palgrave's "Golden Treasury of the Best Songs and Lyrical Poems in the English Language" (Macmillan; from 1s net) an excellent selection. A useful work giving biographies of the leading poets, with selections from their works, is Ward's English Poets (Macmillan: 4 volumes, 7s 6d each). In the latest issue the fourth volume costs 8s 6d, but it is greatly enlarged. The general introduction to this work by Matthew Arnold is a masterpiece, and should be diligently studied by all lovers of poetry. The choice of individual poets will depend largely upon the taste of the reader, and the choice of editions upon the state of his purse. The poetry of Tennyson almost all will enjoy, and now that his poems have been added to the Globe Library (Macmillan: 3s 6d) they may be had in a good edition at a moderate price. Even cheaper editions can be had of his earlier works which are now out of copyright. The Everyman's Library volume at one shilling net is admirable. Longfellow is another poet almost universally popular, and there are few households where his poems will not be highly appreciated. Burns and Scott will be found in most Scottish homes, and the head of the household might occupy the winter evenings to much worse advantage than by reading aloud from them. For Shakespeare perhaps the best popular edition is the Globe (Macmillan: 3s 6d). Much cheaper, and also excellent, is the edition in the Oxford Library of Prose and Poetry (2s). The Everyman's Library edition in three volumes (1s net each) is well printed in large type. It is a good plan to study favourite plays in separate form. The Temple edition volumes (Dent: 1s each) are beautifully printed and tastefully bound. A poet who is not always appreciated is Wordsworth. His best works will be found in the volume of selections edited by Matthew Arnold for the Golden Treasury series (Macmillan: 2s 6d). Should this volume be relished, the reader might then procure the poet's complete works edited by John Morley (Macmillan: 7s 6d). Keats, Shelley, and Matthew Arnold may also be procured in the Golden Treasury series. Chaucer will never be a very popular poet; but those who go to the trouble of mastering his language are richly rewarded. Thanks to Messrs Macmillan, his works can now be procured in a good edition at 3s 6d. Spenser, Milton, Pope, Dryden, and Cowper are all issued in the Globe Library (Macmillan:

3s 6d), which can be thoroughly recommended. So also can the Oxford Poets series (Henry Frowde: 3s 6d), and the cheaper form in Mr Frowde's Florin Library. Robert Browning is a poet whose writings are well calculated to give stimulus and strength. His terseness makes him often difficult to follow, but it is worth while trying to understand him. The young reader might begin with the shilling volume of selections (Smith, Elder, & Co.), and then go on to one of the volumes of the Canterbury Poets series (Walter Scott: 1s each), or the Everyman's Library volumes, two at 1s each. Indeed, there is now a large choice of cheap editions of Browning's earlier works. Of course, the copyright poems can only be bought in Smith, Elder, & Co.'s editions, and if the student can afford it he should also buy their issues of the earlier works. Their leather-bound edition on India paper in half-crown volumes is very good value. The Canterbury Poets series (Walter Scott, Ltd.: 1s per volume) includes various volumes of poetical selections, many of which can be had nowhere else, and which are well worth attention. Goethe's "Faust" and Dante's "Divina Commedia" are two of the great poems of the world which we can read in various translations. The plays of Sheridan and Goldsmith should not be missed. Good cheap editions may be had in Cassell's National Library. The lover of poetry, in fact, however poor, has in these days no need to stint his taste, for Mr W. T. Stead's Penny Poets have brought a great body of the best verse within the reach of every one.

### TRAVELS.

What a fascination there is in works of travel, from those of the old voyagers in their weather-beaten boats to the experiences of the modern traveller with the railway and the steamboat at his command! Quite a number of the earlier works of travel may be found in Cassell's National Library, and read with advantage and pleasure. Waterton's "Wanderings in South America" can be had in the same series, and is splendid reading. Cook's "Voyages," Lady Brassey's Voyages in the Sunbeam, Darwin's "Journal during a Voyage in the 'Beagle,'" Wallace's "Travels on the Amazon," Burnaby's "Ride to Khiva," Barth's "Travels in Africa" are a few good books of travel which have been published in popular form, but, as regards the works of more recent travellers, the number is so great that the reader might well be left to make a choice in accordance with his own inclinations.

### RELIGION AND COUNSEL.

Every young man will do well to add to his library a selection of the best religious books and a number of the books which are fitted to give helpful advice to young men. The Bible and its study is more fully dealt with in the section of this book devoted to Fellowship work. Let us mention here to begin with a few of the great devotional works. There is "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas a Kempis. It can be had in a great variety of editions, and is a book to live with. Law's "Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life" is a great and helpful book, deserving of all the good things said of it by the Rev. Dr Whyte, of Free St George's, Edinburgh. For one shilling the reader can have the choice of more than one good cloth-bound edition. Farrar's Lives of Christ and St Paul are brilliantly written, and full of helpful suggestions, and can now be had very cheaply (Cassell & Co.: from 3s 6d each). Keble's "Christian Year" can be had from a few pence upwards, and so also can Bunyan's "Pilgrim Progress," great alike as a religious work and as a work of the imagination. One of the volumes containing the "Book of Common Prayer" and "Hymns Ancient and Modern" bound together should be secured, whatever denomination our reader may belong to, as it contains much good devotional reading.

### Other Good Books.

Of works less directly religious the young man will do well to read Hamerton's "Intellectual Life" (Macmillan: 10s 6d), The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius (Scott Library: 1s), Lubbock's "Pleasures of Life" (Macmillan: from 6d upwards), Herbert Spencer's "Education" (Williams & Norgate: 2s 6d; Watts & Co.: 6d), Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography (Cassell's National Library: 6d), Smiles' "Self-Help," "Duty," "Character," and others (Murray: 3s 6d each; "Self-Help" in paper covers, 1s), Dr Cameron Lees' "Life and Conduct" (Guild Text-Books: A. & C. Black: 6d). The edition of Lowell in the Penny Poets series should be bought and read for Mr Stead's stimulating introductory essay on "His Message, and how it helped me." In fact, the American poets Lowell, Whittier, and Longfellow are all very helpful counsellors for young people. Much help may also be had from the writings of Carlyle. "Heroes and Hero-Worship" and "Past and Present" are two good books to commence with. Both can now be had very cheaply.



## PROSE.

The reader's choice of prose works will depend upon how exhaustive he is to make his study of this branch of our literature, as well as upon his individual taste. One good plan is to make friends with some one of our great authors and to study his works assiduously. Take John Ruskin, for instance—his works will supply us with material for months of reading. By holding communion with him in his books we shall gain a true-hearted friend and counsellor, we shall move in an atmosphere of purity, in a world where it is natural for all to think highly and to live nobly. And all this is in addition to the glory of Ruskin's style. It matters little where we open one of his books. We shall not read far before we come upon some marvellous word picture or some gem of thought enhanced by the beauty of its verbal setting. Whether we read for the style or for the teaching, we shall not regret the time spent over Ruskin's works. It is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rule as to the order in which Ruskin's books should be read. Probably

**"Sesame and Lilies"**

makes as good a beginning as any. It is a book which will stand many readings. In the first essay, which is in praise of books, he shows us how we ought to read if we are to derive the greatest benefit from our reading. No nobler tribute to woman's power and greatness has been paid than in the second essay, which is entitled "Of Queen's Gardens." "Sesame and Lilies" is a comparatively short book, yet the reader feels that in it he indeed possesses great riches in little room. Another book of Ruskin's, short in length but mighty of import, is "Unto this Last." Here we have the social reformer in our author overmastering the literary artist. The book deals with the problems of Capital and Labour, of riches and poverty. Its thoughtful study will do much for the reader. It will open his eyes to many of the pressing questions of our time, and will probably make him a student of social science. The reader who has appreciated Ruskin's "Sesame and Lilies" and "Unto this Last" is not likely to stop at these works, but will read with zest and profit the others of his works which come within his reach. As with Ruskin so with

## Other Great Authors;

let the reader seek to know them through their works, and the companionship is sure to be beneficial. There is Carlyle, whom Ruskin acknowledged as his master. Read carefully such a work as his "Lectures on Heroes" or his "Past and Present," and it will not be long before you feel that you have gained a new friend, and will read his other works with pleasure. If some knowledge of the author's career is gained from such a book as Garnett's *Life of Carlyle in the Great Writers series* (W. Scott: 1s 6d), the enjoyment will be heightened and the benefit increased. A fascinating prose writer is Robert Louis Stevenson. He is an artist in words, and his style is practically perfect. His essays are masterpieces. "Virginibus Puerisque" and "Memories and Portraits" (Chatto & Windus: from 2s each net) make perhaps the best beginning for the reader. Stevenson has much to say upon style, and he tells by what laborious application his own style was perfected. The reader who comes under Stevenson's charm is not likely to rest satisfied until he has read every word of his that he can come across. Our space will not allow us to do more than mention a few others of the great prose writers. Matthew Arnold, probably the best of our modern critics, is worth careful reading, particularly his "Essays in Criticism" (Macmillan: Two series: 4s net each). Emerson's prose works are full of bracing thoughts. Macaulay's "Essays" are most brilliant in style. Charles Lamb's "Essays of Elia" are delightful reading. Bacon's "Essays" contain a marvellous amount of wisdom condensed into small space. "The Spectator" of Steele and Addison contains a great mass of beautiful writing. Routledge publishes a handy edition in one volume at 3s 6d. The four-volume edition in *Everyman's Library* (Dent: 1s net per volume) is beautifully printed, and is wonderful value.

"The art of speaking," says the Rev. Dr Mair, Earlston, in his useful little book entitled "Speaking," "can hardly be over-estimated. With the single exception of the power of thinking itself—which could hardly be exercised without language—the human voice and the faculty of using it in speech are the peculiar distinction and the highest endowment in man. They are gifts also of singular beauty and power. They have roused and repressed every motion, charmed unruly crowds, swayed strong-minded Senates, changed the history of the nations."

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## FICTION.

Fiction forms the most widely popular branch of literature to-day. Provided that the fiction read is of the best there is little reason to cavil at this state of affairs. Fiction reading wisely conducted may contribute very largely to culture. The best novels educate, elevate, and ennoble. Almost all history has been laid under contribution for their subjects, and the reader who enters intelligently into the fortunes of the various characters is sure to have his knowledge greatly increased. Take the *Waverley Novels*, for instance. The man who has read these carefully will be found to possess a knowledge of history greater and more enduring perhaps than that of many who have sought it from the more conventional source of the orthodox historical manuals. While this is true, the reader should by no means rest satisfied with the knowledge of history which he gathers from Sir Walter Scott. He should study the periods with which the various novels deal, and endeavour to estimate for himself how far they have been correctly interpreted by Scott. "*Woodstock*," for instance, should be made the centre for a course of reading embracing the whole period of the English Revolution. It should lead to the reading of Carlyle's "*Oliver Cromwell*," of such a book as Masson's "*Life and Times of John Milton*," of Frederic Harrison's "*Monograph on Cromwell*," of Gardiner's histories, and so on. J. H. Shorthouse's romance, "*John Inglesant*," is well worth reading by all interested in this particular period. The same method may be advantageously followed with almost every historical novel. A few years ago the Rev. George Jackson, B.A., drew out for the benefit of the readers of the "*Young Man*" the following course of reading in historical novels. It follows the chronological order, and each novel is intended to be used as an introduction to the history of the period with which it deals:—

Kingsley's "*Hereward the Wake*" (Norman Conquest).  
 Scott's "*Ivanhoe*" (Richard I.).  
 Scott's "*Talisman*" (The Crusades).  
 Lytton's "*Last of the Barons*" (Wars of the Roses).  
 Reade's "*Cloister and the Hearth*" ("*A Tale of the Middle Ages*").  
 Kingsley's "*Westward Ho!*" (Elizabethan Age).  
 Scott's "*Abbot*" (Mary Queen of Scots).  
 Scott's "*Fortunes of Nigel*" (James I.).  
 Shorthouse's "*John Inglesant*" (Charles I.).  
 Conan Doyle's "*Micah Clarke*" (Monmouth's Rebellion).  
 Thackeray's "*Esmond*" (Queen Anne).  
 Dickens's "*Tale of Two Cities*" (French Revolution).

Other courses of reading in historical novels may easily be drawn up. Another excellent and methodical way of reading fiction is to study it as literature. Trace its development from its source to the present time. For this purpose help will be got from such books as Professor Raleigh's work on the "*English Novel*" in the University Extension Series (Murray, 3s 6d); from Dunlop's "*History of Fiction*" (Bohn's Standard Library, Geo. Bell & Sons); and Masson's "*British Novelists and their Styles*." Very interesting and useful also is Sir Walter Besant's lecture on the "*Art of Fiction*." But when all is said that can be said in favour of the studious reading of fiction, the fact remains that the majority of people will read fiction for enjoyment rather than education. And it is right that it should be so; besides, there is consolation in the thought that the great novelists teach and uplift as well as amuse. Read, therefore, and enjoy without stint the works of Scott and Dumas, Thackeray and Dickens, Hardy and Meredith, George Eliot and Charlotte Brontë, Stevenson, Kingsley (both Charles and Henry), Blackmore, Wilkie Collins, William Black, Charles Reade, Fenimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Victor Hugo, and many other writers accredited of fame whom we cannot mention here. And do not forget the old books:—The "*Arabian Nights Entertainment*," "*Don Quixote*," "*Robinson Crusoe*," "*Gulliver's Travels*," &c.

## THE ANCIENT CLASSICS.

The ordinary reader has to depend upon translations for his enjoyment of the ancient writers. Thanks to the labours of a multitude of scholars, he does not on that account fare very badly. Admirable translations are available of the works of most of the great writers of antiquity. The lot of the general reader who wants to acquire some acquaintance with the classics is indeed much easier than it was only a decade or two ago. In Messrs Blackwood's excellent series of *Ancient Classics for English Readers* (now to be had in shilling volumes) are to be found concise and trustworthy introductions to all the great authors. Indeed, the majority of people, and even of educated people, go through life with less knowledge of the great writers of antiquity than is to be found in these accessible volumes. The other aids to the appreciation of the classical writers are also numerous. Take Homer, for instance. In the *Ancient Classics Series* there are works by W. L. Collins dealing with both

the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey." Mr Gladstone's celebrated primer on Homer is published by Messrs Macmillan at one shilling. No amount of reading about an author will do much good unless the author is also read, so from books on Homer we must pass to Homer himself, or at least as near to him as the translators will allow. The translation of Homer in most common use is that of Pope. It can be had with Flaxman's illustrations in the Chandos Classics, one volume each to the "Iliad" and "Odyssey" (F. Warne & Co., 2s each). Many good judges of poetry prefer the version of Chapman to that of Pope. James Russell Lowell says:—"Chapman has made for us the best poem that has yet been Englished out of Homer." Thanks to Messrs Dent, Chapman's version can now be had in most dainty form in the Temple Classics ("Iliad," 2 volumes, 1s 6d each; "Odyssey," 2 volumes, 1s 6d each). Of prose translations the best is that made by Messrs Butcher and Lang, and published by Macmillan. From the works here mentioned a selection can be made sufficient to give a good insight into the works of the grand old Grecian bard. Plato is another of the old Greeks whose works are worthy of careful and assiduous study. A good edition of his "Republic" is that translated by J. Llewellyn Davies and D. J. Vaughan, and published in the Golden Treasury Series (Macmillan, 2s 6d). In the same series will be found "The Trial and Death of Socrates," translated by F. J. Church, and a new translation by J. Wright of "Phaedrus," "Lysis," and "Protagoras." Horace and Virgil can probably best be read in the prose translations in the Globe Library (Macmillan, 3s 6d each). Mrs Browning has translated the "Prometheus Bound" of Æschylus into English verse. His whole seven tragedies have been translated by Dean Potter. For good translations of other works of the ancient classical writers in editions at moderate price the reader is referred to Morley's Universal Library, published by Messrs Routledge; Everyman's Library and the Temple Classics, published by Messrs Dent; the World's Classics, published by Henry Frowde; and the Scott Library, published by Walter Scott, Ltd.

Tierney, whom Lord Macaulay calls one of the most fluent debaters ever known, said he never rose in Parliament without feeling his knees knock together. It is one of the compensations of nature that the nervous temperament which occasion the trembling is also one of the causes of oratorical success.

## HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY.

**T**HE first difficulty which meets the Literary Society essayist is usually the choice of a subject. Not that subjects are scarce, for, as Alexander Smith says, "The essay writer has no lack of subject matter. He has the day that is passing over his head, and, if unsatisfied with that, he has the world's six thousand years to depasture his gay or serious humour upon. I idle away my time here, and I am finding new subjects every hour. Everything I see or hear is an essay in the bud. The world is everywhere whispering essays, and one need only be the world's amanuensis." Our young essayist may not have Smith's keen discernment of subjects, but he is sure to be embarrassed by the richness of the field before him. If he be wise he will choose a subject with which he is familiar, or, at least, one in which he is deeply interested. He will not be too ambitious, and will remember that it is

### Not a Regular Treatise

that he is to write, but only an essay or endeavour. Some essayists find their subjects in particular phases of the life around them, and exercise their powers of observation; others have recourse to the riches of history and literature. A paper on a favourite author, or a favourite book, or a favourite historical hero is often very successful, and a beginner will find in it fewer opportunities of going astray than in a more abstruse topic. The subject fixed, the wise essayist will at once begin his preparations for its treatment. Delays are dangerous, and a good essay can scarcely be expected when its writing is put off till the last moment. Our model essayist will

### Take Infinite Pains

with his work. He will read all that he can find on the subject of which he is treating. Like Bacon's good reader, he will "weigh and consider" what he reads, so that his own opinion may be formed with judgment. Before commencing to the actual writing of the essay, it is a good plan to draw out a skeleton or outline of its main features. This method is advocated by Whately in his admirable "Elements of Rhetoric," and his words on the matter are worthy of reproduction. "It should be added," he says, "as a practical rule for all cases, whether it be an exercise that is written for practice' sake or a composition on some real occasion, that an outline should be first drawn out—a skeleton, as it is sometimes called—of the substance of what is to be said. The more briefly this is done, so that it does but exhibit clearly the several heads



of the composition, the better, because it is important that the whole of it be placed before the eye and the mind in a small compass, and be taken in, as it were, at a glance; and it should be written, therefore, not in sentences, but like a table of contents. Such an outline should not be allowed to fetter the writer if, in the course of the actual composition, he find any reason for deviating from his original plan. It should serve merely as a track to mark out a path for him, not as a groove to confine him. But the practice of drawing out such a skeleton will give a coherence to the composition, a due proportion of its several parts, and a clear and easy arrangement of them such as can rarely be attained if one begins by completing one portion before thinking of the rest."

### The Question of Proportion.

This question of proportion is a very important one in an essay. Its attainment will be considerably helped by seeing that the whole is divided into three distinct parts—an introduction, main portion, and conclusion. The introduction should not be long, but should clearly define the object of the essay. The conclusion should sum up the various matters dealt with in the essay, and complete the unity of the whole. The length of an essay will vary according to the subject and the writer. It is better, however, that it should be too short rather than too long. And now as to the actual writing of the essay. Before this is undertaken the essayist will do well to see that he has

### All His Facts in Order.

Let him jot down his various points on slips of paper, and with his skeleton programme before him arrange these in their proper sequence. Then let him start to write. Some essayists adopt the plan of writing out their first draft rapidly, and then going over it sentence by sentence. Others write carefully throughout, and perfect each sentence as it is written. There is something to be said for each plan. The former method will probably produce the more vigorous writing, and the polish can be imparted afterwards. The essayist should think well before writing. If his thoughts are clear and distinct in his own mind, he will probably express them in a way not to be misunderstood by his hearers.

### Clearness is the Main Thing.

"I have very little faith in rules of style," says the Right Honourable John Morley, M.P., "but I have an unbounded faith in the virtue of cultivating the direct and precise expression. It is not everybody who can command the

mighty rhythm of the greatest masters of human speech, but every one can make reasonably sure that he knows what he means, and whether he has found the right word." These are valuable counsels, and embody the secret of successful composition. In putting them into practice the young essayist will find useful help in "How to Write Clearly," by the Rev. Edwin A. Abbott, D.D. (Seeley & Co. 1s 6d). For reference as to doubtful points of composition "The Queen's English: A Manual of Idiom and Usage," by the late Dean Alford, will be found very helpful. It can now be had for eightpence in Bohn's Select Library. One book which the essayist should have constantly at hand is an English dictionary. He should refer to it whenever he is in doubt as to the precise meaning of a word. Dictionaries are cheap nowadays, and it is well to have a good one. All of the following can be recommended:—Chambers's English Dictionary, 12s 6d; Student's English Dictionary (Blackie), 7s 6d; Chambers's New Century Dictionary, 3s 6d; Annandale's Concise English Dictionary (Blackie), 5s.

### THE HUMAN VOICE.

"I have often," says Mr T. P. O'Connor in one of his articles descriptive of Parliamentary life, "insisted on the voice as one of the greatest sources of the strength of an orator, and I think I have illustrated my theory on that subject by telling an experience of John Bright. During the earlier years of my acquaintance with Bright as an orator he had only to use the words with which every member has to begin his speech—'Mr Speaker, Sir,'—for him to send thrills down my back, to carry away my senses, and to make me the bond-slave of every word he uttered from that moment forward. But when I heard Bright make almost his last speech in Parliament age had practically destroyed all the sweetness, melody, and power of that once beautiful voice, and his speech seemed to me commonplace, thin, and ineffective. And every speaker who has had a good deal of practice will tell you that if once they lose their voice in speaking their sense goes with their voice, and they are no longer able to reason well or to impress their audience with their ideas."

An old Scotswoman, when advised by her minister to take snuff to keep herself awake during the sermon, it being her regular habit to fall sleep, replied, "Why dinna ye put snuff in the sermon, man?"

## HOW TO MAKE MONEY BY WRITING.

In writing for the press there are a few general rules which ought to be carefully observed. First, as to the writing materials. Use white paper and black ink. The paper should not be too large in size—quarto size at the most, or even smaller with advantage. A small sheet is more convenient for the compositor or operator of a type-setting machine to handle. Write only on one side of the paper. This enables the work to be shared out better among the compositors, and allows of continuous working. Write legibly. Printers may be able to read anything, but they are only mortal, and appreciate plain writing as much as you do. Difficulty in deciphering manuscript means loss of time, and time is money. By writing legibly you will also save yourself the worry of finding misprints in your contributions. Use short sentences. To give a sentence to each separate idea contributes to clearness and force. Write concisely. In this busy world brevity is a great virtue.

### A Journalist's Advice.

That great living journalist, Mr W. T. Stead, offers the following advice to literary aspirants:—"As an exercise, after you have written an article, imagine that you had to telegraph it to Australia at a pound a word—to be paid out of your own pocket. The process of condensation from the diffuse essay style to the crisp, condensed, laconic, nervous style of the telegram will probably make your meaning stand out much more clearly."

Write simply. Do not strive after fine writing. Know what you have to say, and say it. When you have made what you think is a good point do not think it necessary to mark it in italics. If you have expressed yourself clearly the reader will see the point and appreciate it without such an aid. Do not think it necessary to send a long letter to the editor with your contribution. If there are any facts which you think will tend to bring about its favourable reception state these briefly, but in general it is better to allow your article to speak for itself. Write about what you know. Phases of life and character which have come under your own observation will often furnish splendid copy, and be readily accepted by editors.

### Do not be Discouraged

though your early efforts meet with little or no recognition. Keep on writing on subjects which interest you, and success will come in time. "Every new beginner," says Mr Stead, "always writes for nothing. I wrote for years before I received a penny-piece. It is the apprenticeship of journalism. . . . Persevere. The waste-paper basket is one great test of capacity. You must cross that to get into print. Then when once you are in print you can go on until you can find some one to pay you for your copy. That is the only school of journalism that I know of. It is that in which I graduated, and where most of those whom I know have learned their trade."

### Money-Making.

From the money-making point of view writing for the press is very well dealt with in a little book published by Grant Richards at half a crown, entitled "How to Write for Magazines," by "£600 a Year for it." The author points out that writing for the various popular periodicals may be a very profitable business. He himself for some years back has never made less than some £650 to £700 a year from his writings for the "weeklies" and magazines, and his annual income is tending much to rise rather than to diminish, for his name is now getting fairly well known to the public who patronise that class of literature. The key-note of his advice is that if you want to make much money by writing you must write what the public wants, and not what you think it ought to want, or what you want to give it. "The British public that reads," he says, "every nation's reading audience at the present day is asking for things that interest, that are curious, that are striking, that are novel in some way or other. If you are prepared to supply these there are openings galore for you on many papers and magazines, weekly, monthly, and daily. Every editor will be only too glad to have excellent MSS. of that kind, and will ask for more."

### The Market for MSS.

Money can also often be earned by sending to newspapers or periodicals an account of something interesting coming under the personal notice of the writer. Where photographs can be secured to accompany the description so much the better, but in these cases it is well to make sure that no copyright attaches to the pictures. Many photographers make considerable sums by sending views of

interesting things of events to the illustrated papers.

One of the most important points to be remembered when writing for money is to see that your work is sent to the publication for which it is best suited. Before sending a manuscript to any paper it is well to make oneself familiar with the class of matter appearing in it, the length and general style of the contributions. When this is done one is saved the disappointment of the rejection which necessarily follows when an absolutely unsuitable article is sent to any paper.

### A LECTURER'S EXPERIENCE.

Mr John Augustus O'Shea used to be in considerable request as a lecturer on his military experiences. Once, at Dumfries, he came upon the platform wearing in his buttonhole a daisy, which he quietly removed and held up. "Ladies and gentlemen," he began, "I hold in my hand a 'wee modest flower' I plucked this evening from the grave of Robert Burns." The audience was interested, and became enthralled as the lecturer went on to speak of the national poet. Then, suddenly recollecting that Burns had nothing to do with his subject, he stopped abruptly. "And now," said Mr O'Shea, "I will proceed to relate my experiences in the war." But by this time he had thoroughly engaged the sympathies of his listeners, who would not hear of another subject. "Never min' the war, sir," they vociferated; "gie us Robbie Burns!" And he did. This extempore oration afterwards became one of the most popular of Mr O'Shea's lectures.

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 Marcus Aurelius.  
 The Battle of Thermopylæ.  
 What we Owe to the Greeks.  
 Shakespeare's "Tempest."  
 The Poetry of Patriotism.  
 Stanley's "Life of Arnold."  
 The Tyranny of Fashion.  
 The Growth of Russia.  
 Mark Twain's Humour.  
 Beautiful British Buildings.  
 The Indian Mutiny.  
 St Columba.  
 Building Societies: Their Advantages and Disadvantages.  
 The Dignity of Labour.  
 The Drama in the Victorian Era.  
 The Power of the Press.  
 International Arbitration.  
 Richard Jefferies, a Lover of Nature.  
 Shakespeare and His Times.  
 The Influence of Scenery on Character.  
 Goethe's "Faust."  
 The Motives to Literary Exertion.  
 Patriotism.

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### ENTERTAINING FICTION

is a grand solace in this busy, hard-working age. No better stories are to be had anywhere than the splendid serials in the "People's Journal." Sold everywhere. One penny weekly.

## READING CIRCLES.

A well-conducted reading circle can be a most beneficial institution to its members. The system induces mutual help and encouragement among those adopting it, and reading by this method is rendered more interesting than solitary reading. America has led the way in the introduction of such circles, and the "Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle," the pioneer institution of the kind, exercises enormous influence on the other side of the Atlantic. In this country the leading body is the National Home Reading Union, which is so well conducted, and offers so many advantages, that smaller circles will find it to their advantage to co-operate with it. According to the prospectus, the Union has been formed for the purpose of developing a taste for Recreative and Instructive Reading among all classes of the community, and directing Home Study to definite ends, so as on the one hand to check the spread of pernicious literature among the young, and on the other to remedy the waste of energy and lack of purpose so often found among those who have time and opportunity. These objects are as much in need of promotion now as they were at the start of the Union; perhaps even more so, for the largely augmented flood of cheap literature must be an ever-increasing embarrassment to the unguided reader. The

### Objects of the Union

are stated to be—I. To draw up and publish courses of reading adapted to the tastes and requirements of different classes of readers, especially (a) Young People, (b) General Readers. II. To publish for the various classes of readers monthly magazines giving introductions to the prescribed books, answers to questions, and other helps. III. To issue Certificates to those who have completed regular courses of study, and to render such further assistance as experience shows to be practicable. IV. To organise a summer Assembly each year at some centre of interest, at which Lectures will be delivered by experienced teachers, Social Gatherings held, and Excursions arranged. The reading season begins with September. The annual subscriptions are low, and the monthly magazines to which the members are entitled are in themselves worth the fees charged. The magazines aim at doing as far as possible for the members of the National Home Reading Union what would be done by a good tutor if he had charge of their

studies. Members are at liberty to submit any difficulties they may meet with in their reading, and careful criticism is gladly given on any written work they may care to do in connection with it. While no correspondence system can equal oral teaching, the Union undoubtedly supplies valuable assistance for private students.

### The Courses of Reading

prescribed vary according to the wants of those likely to take them up; and include a Young People's Section, General Course, Special Courses, and an Introductory Course section intended specially for working women. New Courses are drawn up every year in each section, and in addition to these a large number of "Supplementary Courses" on a variety of subjects are always available. The notes in the magazines are supplied by competent—nay, even highly distinguished—authorities on the various subjects. The session opens in September, and it is well for all intending members to make application about that time of the year, although the Union can be joined at any time. Full particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Miss A. M. Read, Surrey House, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.

### THERE IS SOMETHING

in a name, and, as everybody knows, the "People's Journal" has consistently endeavoured to justify its title. It is the people's journal. The working man and the working woman find in it a fearless advocate and a staunch sympathiser. Its mission is to make homes brighter, lives happier, and the world better. Its readers are counted by the hundred thousand, and are to be found in every quarter of the globe. What does this mean? Simply that the "People's Journal" is valued by the people whose cause it espouses. That cause is yours, and if you are not already a reader you should begin at once.

The advantage to a speaker of a well-stored mind is strikingly shown in a tribute which that great orator John Bright paid to Mr Gladstone. Sir Edward Russell in his book of reminiscences records that Mr Bright, in the course of many conversations, always spoke of Mr Gladstone as if he were on a higher level. "Oh, it is easy for him," he would say; "his mind has everything in it, and he has only to turn on the steam."

## HINTS ON PUBLIC SPEAKING.

**T**HE ability to speak in public is a most valuable possession. In a great variety of ways it proves its worth. Yet it is a comparatively rare power, and many men otherwise highly accomplished fall far short in this respect. The gifts of the orator are exceptional, but the ability of giving clear expression in public to one's ideas ought to be more common than it is. True, as Dean Farrar says, "Eloquence is not a thing for which one can give a recipe, as one might give a recipe for making eau-de-Cologne. Eloquence is the noble, the harmonious, the passionate expression of truths profoundly realised, or of emotions intensely felt. It is a flame which cannot be kindled by artificial means. Rhetoric may be taught, if any one thinks it worth learning: but eloquence is a gift as innate as the genius from which it springs." But though eloquence cannot be taught, many of the powers which lead to it can. In oratory, as in other accomplishments,

### Skill Comes with Practice,

and often, indeed, is the orator's ability the reward of arduous labour, under the guidance of consummate art. The Greek orator Demosthenes was the greatest orator of antiquity, and perhaps the greatest that the world has seen. Yet, in an article by the late Professor Nichol, we are told that his earliest efforts were so badly received that he became quite despondent, and seriously thought of retiring. "His feeble frame, weak voice, general want of vigour, and awkward delivery were fatal to his success. He failed, and failed again. His carefully prepared harangues only earned him nick-names and ridicule." But he persevered, "bent all his mental energies to overcome his physical defects," and triumphed gloriously. John Philpot Curran, the celebrated Irish orator, was so defective in enunciation that at school he was known as "Stuttering Jack Curran." This defect, we are told, he "corrected by a regular system of daily reading aloud, slowly, and with strict regard to pronunciation." He was a constant attender at Debating Clubs, and tells that at the first meeting which he attended he stood up to speak. He had got the length of "Mr Chairman"; but became so alarmed at discovering that every eye was turned upon him that he became dumb. His eloquence, he remarked to a friend, was not born with him. It was born three-and-twenty years and some months after him. Sheridan, another great orator, made a poor appearance in his maiden

speech in Parliament, and the critics asserted that "Nature never intended him for an orator." Disraeli's failure, with its accompanying assertion, "The time will come when you will hear me," has become historic. But space is too limited to enumerate here the many distinguished orators who have risen through failure to success. Sufficient for our purpose is the emphasising of the fact that practice,

### Perseverance, and Study

largely contribute to the building up of the orator's power. Many are the methods by which men have sought to perfect themselves in public speaking. A man ambitious to shine as a speaker should take every opportunity of hearing famous speakers and of studying their methods and style. The humble Debating Society is useful in promoting readiness of speech, and also that confidence which is so valuable an attribute of public speakers. Not that fluency is always a blessing. Where it leads to the making of rash and unconsidered statements it is instead a weakness.

### Have Something to Say.

And this brings us to what should be the first essential of public speaking—the having something to say. There should be no speaking for mere speaking's sake. When a man has something to say which he feels must be said, he is very likely to say it well. An audience will forgive almost anything from the speaker whom they see is in earnest. As the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, himself a speaker of a high order, said—"The first quality is sincerity. Intense reality, thorough-going earnestness, I should regard as the first qualification for the highest success as a public speaker."

### Prepare Carefully.

One other qualification is earnest preparation. The Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon, a master of oratory, expressed himself on the subject as follows:—"If a man would speak without some previous study, he must usually study much. This is a paradox perhaps, but its explanation lies upon the surface. I do not believe any man can be successful in continuously maintaining the gift of extemporaneous speech, except by ordinarily using far more labour than is usual with those who write and commit their discourses to memory. Take it as a rule without exception that to be able to overflow spontaneously you must be full." On this subject of preparation Mr Holyoake says:—"He who speaks without preparing what he will say is but a gambler in oratory who trusts to the right dice



turning up as he proceeds. . . . It is only the young, would-be speaker who expects to be great without effort, or whose vanity leads him to impose upon others the belief that he is so, who affects to despise preparation. . . . Gather relevant knowledge everywhere. Every man is indebted to others for much information. . . . Preparation is power; nor does the hesitation which the desire of exactness sometimes begets tell against the speaker."

#### Arrange Your Facts Logically.

Having acquired the necessary knowledge, the speaker must see that it is presented in a convincing way. "Logic is the basis of oratory, for no sensible man is moved to action unless he sees a reason for it. Genius in argument consists in seeing relevances and in enabling others to see them." One of the most necessary qualifications of the public speaker is clearness of expression or lucidity. He must have a clear meaning in his own mind, and see that it is transferred to the minds of his hearers. High-sounding phrases carry no weight unless they are intelligible. He should inflexibly keep himself to the main argument, and beware of obscuring it by the introduction of side issues. To ensure this the speech should be carefully planned beforehand.

#### How Mr Gladstone Prepared.

Very interesting is the information given by Sir Edward Hamilton, who was Private Secretary to Mr Gladstone, as to how that great statesman prepared his speeches. "The way in which Mr Gladstone set to work to prepare his speeches was very different to that which is in modern vogue. He was known occasionally to commit to paper a peroration; but he never wrote out a speech in his life, and still less did he ever rehearse a speech to a shorthand writer. The matter to which, when preparing a speech, he gave most attention was the construction or arrangement of it; and it was in this respect more than any other that he showed consummate skill as an oratorical artist. When he had settled the outline of a speech his thoughts were concentrated on the order of materials and the sequence of argument. This process of incubation was undergone, more often than not, when he was taking his accustomed solitary walks. He then proceeded to jot down on notepaper the heads of that which he intended to say, or rather a certain number of catchwords, which were rather enigmatical to any one but himself. The actual clothing of his thoughts in words was left to the inspiration of the moment, knowing full well that his inexhaustible store of language would never fail him."

#### A Good Plan of Preparation.

The foregoing was the method of preparation adopted by a supremely great orator; it is obvious that it will scarcely be suited to less gifted persons. The method of a less celebrated speaker is described in the following extract from a letter by Lord — on his first speech in Parliament:—"Having chosen — for my topic, I read all the debates and pamphlets which could throw any light upon it, and wrote very numerous notes while reading. When this part of the labour was accomplished I reviewed the notes, and arranged them under heads, in an order which had suggested itself to my mind. I then cast out all that appeared to be irrelevant and whatever did not make straight for the point at which I wished to aim. To make a short schedule of the various heads, together with memoranda of some embellishments and illustrations, was my next care. And when this schedule was clearly imprinted on my mind I frequently spoke the speech over to myself whilst out walking, in order to accustom myself to various modes of expression. Then I wrote out the whole speech, bestowing particular attention on the exordium and on the peroration. And, lastly, I learnt these two parts by heart, but never looked again at the rest of my speech." The following advice given by the late John Richard Green, the historian, is as valuable for speakers as for writers:—"Take the public, as it were, into your confidence; write to them as if they knew as much as you do yourself, but in your own mind assume that they know nothing."

#### Have Little to do with Notes.

And now as to the question of notes. The less you have to do with these the better. Mr T. W. Higginson, an American, who has put on record some excellent advice on public speaking, lays down the rule, "Never carry a scrap of paper before an audience." That eloquent Scottish preacher, Dr Thomas Guthrie, writing to a young minister advising him to dispense with MS. in the pulpit, said—"One immense advantage of not 'reading' is that you are more free to avail yourself of those thoughts and varieties which the animation and heat of the pulpit naturally give. When the soul is excited, thoughts, and even language, acquire a fire and a brilliancy which they cannot have in the calmness of the study." Whately also gives good advice much to the same effect.

### The Voice and its Treatment.

We next come to the voice and its treatment. And here we find wise advice given by the late Mr Spurgeon:—"Our first rule with regard to the voice would be: Do not think too much about it, for recollect the sweetest voice is nothing without something to say. On the other hand, do not think too little of your voice. Exceedingly precious truths may be greatly marred by being delivered in monotonous tones. Avoid the use of the nose as an organ of speech. . . . Distinct utterance is far more important than wind power. Do give a word a fair chance. Do not break its back in your vehemence, or run it off its legs in your haste. You need not speak in a loud voice in order to be heard well. . . . Modulate your tones. . . . Suit your voice to your matter always, and, above all, in everything be natural."

#### Be Natural.

This advice, be natural, is perhaps the most important of all that can be given to a speaker. We find it emphasised by almost all who have good advice to offer. "Always speak in a natural key, and in a conversational way," says Mr Higginson, who also remarks that the days of pompous and stilted eloquence are gone by. He recommends the following method for securing this natural conversational manner:—"Suppose the occasion to be a public dinner. You have somebody by your side to whom you have been talking. To him your manner was undoubtedly natural, and if you can only carry along into your public speech that conversational style of your private talk, the battle is gained. How, then, to achieve that result? In this simple way: Contribute to say over to your neighbour conversationally the thought, whatever it is, with which you mean to begin your public speech. Then, when you rise to speak, say merely what will be perfectly true, 'I was just saying to the gentleman who sits beside me that—,' and then you repeat your remark over again. You thus make the last words of your private talk the first words of your public address, and the conversational manner is secured."

#### Advantages of the Conversational Manner.

The advantages of the conversational manner will be found to be numerous. For one thing, a natural delivery is the most easily heard, and, of course, to be heard is the first essential of speaking. In order that the voice should carry to

the whole audience, Whately gave the simple advice of looking at the most distant of the hearers. Where this plan is followed the voice will usually take care of itself. "Daily watchfulness in speech," says Mr Holyoake, "is of the greatest importance. Ordinary conversation should be well and clearly spoken—whether a question, an answer, or an anecdote, every word should be carefully said. . . . Habitually audible and accurate speech will make it easy to speak in public. What any one does well in daily life, he will do well in public, and have confidence that he can do it well."

#### Keep Up the Voice.

The voice should not be dropped at the end of a sentence. This bad habit is now becoming less frequent. Lord-Chief-Justice Coleridge, one of the best of modern orators, said—"The only rule I have ever followed is one taught me by Bishop Blomfield, of London, many years ago. He was a great orator, and had a most beautiful and effective mode of speaking. He told me that he always spoke in his natural conversational voice; never allowed himself to get into a falsetto, and always kept his voice equably up to the end of his sentence." Samuel Brandram, M.A., the famous elocutionist, gave the following advice as regards the voice:—"The voice should come up from the chest, and should be thrown up, so to speak, from the lowest part of the lungs, when it can be not only heard with ease and without fatigue, but can be made to form all those infinite modulations and inflexions which go to produce what is called 'expression.'"

#### THE PROFUNDITY OF CLEAR IDEAS.

I have heard the maxim laid down by somebody, and earnestly maintained, that "a clear idea is a little idea." I am accordingly set down as a third-rate or fourth-rate kind of person by many, because I condescend to write intelligibly. But I am old-fashioned enough to admire Bacon, whose remarks are taken in and assented to by persons of ordinary capacity, and seem nothing very profound; but when a man comes to reflect and observe, and his faculties enlarge, he then sees more in them than he did at first; and more still as he advances further, his admiration of Bacon's profundity increasing, as he himself grows intellectually. Bacon's wisdom is like the seven-league boots, which would fit the giant or the dwarf, except only that the dwarf cannot take the same stride in them.—Richard Whately.

## SOCIETIES FOR MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT.

### THEIR STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS.

**T**HIS little book is designed to be a popular guide for the members of Literary, Debating, Fellowship, and other Mutual Improvement Societies, and also to render assistance to general readers. Much has been said both for and against Literary and Debating Societies, yet there can be little doubt that when wisely conducted these Societies are of great benefit to their members. Those who enter heartily into the proceedings of a Society are likely to have their faculties developed in many ways. The preparation of papers will give valuable practice in composition, and will infuse a directness into the writer's study which will be found of great benefit. The listening to the discussions will show him the various views which can be held on the same subject, and the occasional taking part in such discussions will help to develop in him the power of public speaking. Perhaps more valuable than any of the foregoing benefits is the mutual stimulus and encouragement exerted by the members in regard to the study of literary and social questions. The hearing of papers on various subjects will also greatly broaden a young man's outlook. Such are a few of the most obvious of the benefits conferred by such Societies, and it will be admitted that they are of no inconsiderable value.

### Reasons Against Debating Societies.

The question has another side, which we find well stated in Archbishop Whately's excellent book, "Elements of Rhetoric." "When young men's faculties," he says, "are in an immature state, and their knowledge scanty, crude, and imperfectly arranged, if they are prematurely hurried into a habit of fluent elocution, they are likely to retain through life a careless facility of pouring forth ill-digested thoughts in well-turned phrases, and an aversion to cautious reflection. For when a man has acquired that habit of ready extemporaneous speaking which consists in *thinking* extempore, both his indolence and self-confidence will indispose him for the toil of carefully preparing his matter, and of forming for himself, by practice in writing, a precise

and truly energetic style; and he will have been qualifying himself only for the 'Lion's part' in the interlude of Pyramus and Thisbe." The full strength of the learned Archbishop's objection is seen when it is remembered that the Lion's part referred to was "nothing but roaring."

### Superficiality and Self-Conceit.

Other objections which are urged against these Societies are that they tend to foster superficiality and self-conceit. No doubt such objections are sometimes justified; but they are objections which might be urged against many other modern institutions besides Debating Societies. Superficiality is one of the vices of our age. Solid reading, for example, is fast becoming the exception, and snippetty journalism holds almost general sway. Upon the devotees of this scrappy reading, attendance at a Debating Society is not unlikely to react beneficially and against superficiality. Let the members of these Societies inflexibly adhere to the two following rules, and it is unlikely that their membership will produce in them anything but good:—(1) Never speak without a conviction; (2) never speak against your convictions. As to self-conceit, wholesome criticism in a Debating Society is often an excellent curb to the growth of such a vice.

### More Societies Wanted.

Literary, Debating, and other Mutual Improvement Societies are not nearly so numerous as they ought to be, and it is hoped that this little book will tend to their increase. Strange to say, it is in the big towns that the greatest falling off has been noticeable in recent years. Many of the most flourishing Societies are now to be found in country districts. No doubt the numerous counter attractions in the towns have had an inimical influence on such Societies. Evening classes have also drawn away many of the most likely members. Where it is a question of attending a class in which systematic instruction is given, or of becoming a member of a Literary or Debating Society where many subjects may be dealt with in the course of a session, a young man will probably find it to his advantage to choose the class. But attendance at evening classes ought not to prevent a young man from participating in the benefits of a Mutual Improvement Society. There should be more co-operation between the classes and the Societies, and it would then be found that the one is a valuable complement of the other.



### Societies Should Vary According to Circumstances.

There is no reason why a Society should be run on the hum-drum lines which, it is feared, have been the cause of the failure of many of these bodies. Different districts have different needs and different tastes, and an endeavour should be made to meet these. Where an ordinary Literary Society may fail, a local Parliament may prove successful; where a Debating Club may languish for want of support, a Dramatic Society may prove a valuable educational medium, and so on. To hold their own nowadays these Societies must be real living institutions, advancing with the times and adapting themselves to changing circumstances. The members must be alive to the surpassing interest of the great drama of individual and national life which is being enacted around them; they should be interested in the problems of their day, and busy themselves over their solution.

### Advice to Students and Readers.

Advantage has been taken of this little book to put into circulation some much-needed advice as to study and general reading. Never was there more need of such advice, for in the unceasing flow of reading matter issuing from the printing presses of the world, the unguided reader is not unlikely to be swamped without having an opportunity of refreshing himself at those pellucid streams of never-failing delight—the great books of the world. Other advice of a useful and varied nature has been added, and it is hoped that this book will be of real service to individual readers, writers, students, and speakers, as well as to the various kinds of Societies for which it is designed to form a hand-book.

### IF YOU LIVE

remote from towns, and in a quarter where the Free Library is unknown, you will often be at a loss so far as a work of reference is concerned. But you needn't be. The large series of Penny Handbooks issued by John Leng & Co., Ltd., Dundee and London, are a library in themselves. There are handbooks on cookery, housekeeping, dressmaking, knitting, draughts, reading, and writing, and debating, wit and humour, gardening, home pets, and numerous other subjects. Ask your newsagent for a list and make your choice.

## HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY.

It is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rules for the successful carrying on of a Society. What will suit one district may be entirely out of place in another. We find Societies flourishing where almost all the circumstances are against them; while others in favourable surroundings drag out a weary and languishing existence. While hard and fast rules cannot therefore be stated, there are numerous principles making for success to which it would be well for those interested in Societies to turn their attention. First, as to the meeting place. Get a cheerful room if at all possible. Endeavour to add to its attractiveness by little decorative effects. A Society that means to flourish will have

### Lady Members,

and to them such work may be entrusted. It is not a bad plan to supply light refreshments. A cup of tea can be provided at small cost, and may do much good. Here also the assistance of lady members will be found invaluable. The young women can bring their needlework or knitting to the meeting, and can be busy while the business of the Literary or Debating Society is being carried on. The selection of office-bearers is a matter that should be carefully gone about. Whether old or young, let them be men in thorough sympathy with young men, men who are enthusiastic in the cause of the Society, and men whom you can depend upon being present in all weathers. The Chairman and the Secretary are specially important officials, and some further notes on their duties will be found hereafter. The work of the Society should be well distributed among the members. It is bad for a Society when the management falls into the hands of a clique. The allotting of some duty, however small, to every member is sure to strengthen the Society.

### A Visitation Committee

should be appointed to visit non-attending members and endeavour to secure new members. For success in this latter aim there is nothing to equal personal invitation. Unless the Society is exceptionally strong, fortnightly meetings will be preferable to weekly ones. Elsewhere in this book comment is made on the value of the practice of making the syllabus a connected scheme of study, and where suitable persons are forthcoming for the carrying on of the work there can be no doubt of the excellence of this plan.

Many Societies, however, will prefer the ordinary mixed syllabus, in which case it should be drawn up with a view to variety. Lectures, essays, and debates should be well intermixed. The subjects of these should be fresh and attractive. Present-day problems should be tackled. Their discussion does valuable service in educating the members as to their responsibilities as citizens. Social evenings, musical evenings, magic-lantern exhibitions, discussions of the most recent books are all ways by which a syllabus may be brightened.

### Cultivate Friendly Feeling.

Much of the success of a Society will depend upon the friendly feeling or otherwise which exists among the members. Quarrelling and all that is likely to lead to it should be steadily discouraged. There should be no wrangling over points of form. All such is exceedingly detrimental to a Society's success. Mutual consideration and regard should be actively fostered. The Chairman or Secretary should see that members are introduced to one another, and should endeavour to promote a feeling of *esprit de corps*. Older members should be tolerant and considerate with the younger members, rather doing everything to encourage them to take part in discussion than making them feel their inferiority. Criticism should be tempered with judgment and mercy. A Mutual Admiration Society is by no means to be desired, but there is a wide gulf between it and the Society where brutally frank and personal criticism is to be heard.

### Think No Evil.

We may not agree with a man's opinions, but we should give him credit for sincerity in holding them. Mr G. J. Holyoake, the veteran reformer, gives admirable advice as to the spirit in which a discussion should be conducted. "Do not," he says, "disparage an opponent, mis-state his views, or strain his words, and thus, for the sake of a verbal triumph, produce ill-feeling. Your sole business is with what he says, not how he says it, nor why he says it. Your aim should be that the audience should lose sight of the speakers, and be possessed with the subject; and that those who come the partisans of persons shall depart the partisans of principles. . . . Controversial wisdom lies not in destroying the adversary, but in destroying his error—not in making him ridiculous, but in making the audience wise." These words should be taken to heart by all

young debaters and speakers. Argument should lead to the discovery of the truth. Be sincere. Be honest. Seek the truth. Never speak against conviction. When these precepts are observed there is little chance of a Society being wrecked through the introduction of personalities. To indulge in personal references is a confession of weakness. No man perhaps had more personalities hurled against him than Mr Gladstone, yet in his long career only one charge of imputation, Mr Holyoake says, was brought against him, and that was that he had described an opponent as a "certain" person. The attainment of truth being the object of a Society, every method should be taken to further that object.

### Help One Another.

Members should be encouraged to state their difficulties in order that the collective wisdom of the Society may lead to their solution. Some Societies have question departments, where members have certain sections of knowledge allotted to them—such as biography, history, literature, science, Scripture—in regard to which they are expected to answer questions put to them by the other members. Of course, notice has to be given of such questions in order that the answerer may be prepared. The foregoing hints, it is hoped, will be helpful in ensuring successful Societies. Much, however, will depend upon the spirit by which the members are animated. There are Societies which are real blessings to the districts in which they are situated. They do not stop short at seeking the welfare of their members; but promote such entertainments for the poor as concerts, penny readings, and lantern exhibitions. They have their reward in the deeper interest which the members take in the work of the Societies.

### Mr Gladstone on Public Speaking.

On one occasion Mr Gladstone was asked by a correspondent for hints on the art of public speaking. He replied characteristically on a postcard, with some "fragments of suggestion" as he termed them:

- (1) Study plainness of language, always preferring the simpler word.
- (2) Shortness of sentences.
- (3) Distinctness of articulation.
- (4) Test and question your own arguments beforehand, not waiting for critic or opponent.
- (5) Seek a thorough digestion and familiarity with your subject, and rely mainly on these to prompt the proper words.
- (6) Remember that if you are to sway an audience you must, besides thinking out your matter, watch them all along.

## OUTLINE CONSTITUTION

### For a Literary and Debating Society.

The drafting of a constitution and by-laws for a Society will be facilitated by the following outline, which can be adapted to suit local and particular wants:—

#### Constitution.

- I.—NAME. The Society shall be called the \_\_\_\_\_ Literary and Debating Society.
- II.—OBJECT. The object of the Society shall be the improvement of its members in debating and public speaking, and the furtherance of their intellectual, social, and moral advancement.
- III.—MEMBERSHIP. All persons desirous of becoming members of the Society shall be proposed and seconded at an ordinary meeting, and their admission shall be decided at next meeting by ballot in their temporary absence.
- IV.—OFFICE-BEARERS. The office-bearers shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer—each of whom shall be elected by ballot.
- V.—AMENDMENTS. Any proposal to amend the foregoing constitution can only be discussed after notice has been given at the preceding meeting, and no alteration shall be made unless sanctioned by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

#### Bye-Laws.

1. That the Society shall meet \_\_\_\_\_ for the promotion of its objects and the transaction of business.
2. That the hour of meeting shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. That there shall be an annual meeting on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for the election of office-bearers, and to hear the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer.
4. That special meetings may be called by the Chairman at the request of the members.
5. That the subscription of members to the Society shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
6. That the mover of a motion be allowed ten minutes to speak to his motion, and subsequent speakers on the same motion five minutes each, except when an extension of time is unanimously granted by the Society.
7. That the same rule in regard to amendments shall apply to the bye-laws as to the constitution.

## HOW TO CONDUCT A MEETING.

For the successful carrying on of a Literary, Debating, or other Mutual Improvement Society, a well-defined order of business is eminently desirable. The following order will be found suitable for the majority of Societies; but modifications can easily be made to meet particular requirements:—

1. The meeting may be looked upon as formally opened when the Chairman takes his seat and calls the members to order. Where the rules of the Society prescribe a method of opening the meeting, such a method will, of course, be followed.

2. The Chairman will call upon the Secretary to read the minutes of last meeting. Besides the last ordinary meeting, these will include the minutes of any special meeting since held. The reading over, the Chairman should distinctly ask the meeting if the minutes are confirmed. It will then be in order for any member dissatisfied with the minutes to move their correction, and should such criticism be upheld by the meeting the Secretary must amend the minutes accordingly. Should the meeting confirm the minutes they are signed by the Chairman. It should be noted, however, that the confirmation of the minutes does not imply approval of the proceedings recorded in them, but merely that the minutes are a true record of what took place. A person who was not present at the meeting of which the minutes are a record is not qualified to vote on the question of the confirmation of the minutes.

3. Reports of the Standing Committee of the Society should then be submitted and dealt with.

4. Reports of Special Committees should be likewise treated. Special Committees are appointed to carry out a certain particular work, and when this has been done they report to the Society and are discharged.

5. Any business arising out of the minutes may be taken.

6. The Secretary should read any letters requiring attention.

7. Propositions for membership may then be brought forward.

8. Any unfinished business should be discussed.

9. New business, of which notice has been given, may here be brought forward, as well as any informal matter which a member may wish to bring under the notice of the Society.

#### Essays and Lectures.

The preliminary business over, the meeting may now proceed to the main item of the evening's programme. The



procedure will differ according as to whether this item be an essay, debate, or lecture. In the case of an essay the Chairman will state the subject and call upon the essayist to read his paper. This done, the Chairman will throw the meeting open for discussion. The essayist is afforded an opportunity for reply to his critics, after which the proceedings are usually brought to a close by the awarding of a vote of thanks to the essayist on the motion of the Chairman. When the programme for the evening is a lecture, the Chairman announces the subject and introduces the lecturer in a few complimentary words. When the lecture is over the Chairman may again make a few remarks, after which a vote of thanks—for which it is well to have previous arrangements made—should be moved by one of the audience, seconded, and carried by acclamation. The Chairman then presents this vote to the lecturer, who briefly replies. When the essayist or lecturer is a specialist in the subject under discussion, with his permission an opportunity may be afforded the members of putting questions, and in this way considerable interest may be added to the proceedings.

### The Laws of Debate.

When the subject for the evening happens to be a debate the mode of procedure is somewhat more complicated than in the case of an essay or lecture, and the Chairman's duties become more onerous. He begins by stating the question for discussion, and directs attention to any special regulations which may have been made for the conduct of the debate. He then calls upon the mover of the affirmative of the proposition to open the discussion. That gentleman proceeds to the platform, and taking up his position at the Chairman's right hand delivers his speech. He is followed by the seconder of the motion. In the same way the negative of the proposition is moved and seconded. The discussion is then thrown open, and may be taken part in by any member provided he observes the laws of debate. The more important of these laws may be expressed somewhat as follows, and every Debating Society should have a Code drawn up for its use:—

1. A member desiring to speak must stand and address the Chairman. He cannot proceed until he catches the Chairman's eye, and receives his sanction to go on, usually given by naming the member. Where two or more members rise at the same time the Chairman shall decide the order in which they shall

speak, and from his decision there is no appeal.

2. All propositions must be seconded before they can be debated. The mover or seconder of a motion or amendment, however, will be allowed to explain it. If a motion is not seconded it shall become null.

3. A motion or amendment having been made and seconded cannot be withdrawn or altered unless with the unanimous consent of the members present, and on the application of the mover and seconder.

4. The Chairman shall have an ordinary vote, and in the event of the votes being equal a second or casting vote.

5. The Chairman shall decide all appeals on points of order.

6. No member shall be allowed to speak twice on any question. This, however, does not exclude a speaker on the original motion from speaking on any amendment.

7. No member shall be allowed to speak longer than — minutes at a time, unless the meeting unanimously consents to an extension.

8. On the termination of a debate the proposer of the original motion shall be afforded an opportunity of reply, but this reply must not exceed — minutes, and must be confined to matters raised in the discussion.

9. The mover having replied, the Chairman shall put the question by calling for a show of hands. He shall call first upon those who are of an affirmative opinion to hold up one hand. These votes having been counted he shall call upon those holding a negative opinion to signify the same by holding up one hand.

10. Should the votes be equal and the Chairman be unwilling to give his casting vote, the motion shall be deemed not to have been carried.

11. Should one-fifth of the members present desire it the vote shall be taken by roll-call of those present.

12. The Chairman shall have the power to require that propositions be made in writing and handed to him with the name of the mover.

### YOU WANT SOMETHING

to brighten up the dark winter evenings, and you cannot get anything better than the "People's Friend." It will keep you amused for hours, and in addition to the amusement it conveys much useful information and instruction. Indeed, the household into which the "Friend" enters every week cannot fail to be well-informed as to what is going on in the world. It contains something for every member of the family, and is altogether invaluable as a household companion.

**THE CHAIRMAN.**

Much of the success of a Society depends on the Chairman, and accordingly great care should be exercised in his choice. He should be an enthusiast in regard to the objects of the Society, and one who can be depended on to attend with regularity. A model Chairman will be at the place of meeting in good time, and will have a word of welcome for the members as they arrive. He will start the business promptly, and will see that it is carried on with order and method. He will see that the speakers confine themselves to the matter in hand, and that no speaking is allowed which is not to a distinct question. To him great powers are committed; but he will use such powers temperately, not to advance his own personal views, but to further the general good of the members. He will be

**Strictly Impartial.**

He will be on the look-out for the timid members, and will give them what encouragement he can. He will also have a keen eye for all intending speakers, so as to be able justly to decide who has the priority of speech. He will be a person of calm judgment, and will judicially decide any points of order which may arise. "Young Debating Societies," says Mr George Jacob Holyoake, "have a tendency not to know what the point is, and to wander from it when they do know it. Upon the Chairman is cast the trouble of discerning what the main points are in the mind of the person who opens the debate, and if this has not been made clear to the Chairman, he should ascertain what the main points meant to be debated are, and state them himself to the meeting before the discussion commences. Having once made the question unquestionably plain, he should remind every speaker of it who forgets it, and point out to him when he is wandering therefrom." The foregoing is capital advice; but

**The Model Chairman**

will not be inflexible in strictly enforcing it, as when dealing with untrained and immature speakers some latitude must be allowed. A Chairman should not allow any misstatement to go uncorrected, but the correction should be made with kindness and tact. He should be more ready to praise than to blame, and in the case of young members should speak a kindly word of encouragement whenever possible. It is the Chairman's duty to see that a meeting is duly proportioned, and that no important business is neglected

until there is no time for its proper discussion. For this purpose it is well that the Chairman and Secretary should consult before the start of the meeting and arrange as far as possible the order of the various items on the evening's programme and the time to be allotted to each.

**THE SECRETARY AND HIS DUTIES.**

The Secretary is a very important personage in a Literary Society. It very largely depends on him whether the business be conducted in a pleasant and orderly manner or with a want of system which will be unpleasant. A good Secretary is indeed a treasure, and no one can do more to further the interests of a Society. The drawing up of the minutes is, after all, only one part of the Secretary's duties. Upon him the greater part of the labour of arranging the syllabus usually falls. It is to him that the business arrangements of the meetings are left. It is through him that the Society holds official communication with the outer world. For this post the best man available should be secured. He should be an enthusiast of enthusiasts; one whom no discouragement can daunt. He should be possessed of tact and discretion, and should be neither careless nor over-officious. A good Secretary will take a pride in

**His Minute Book,**

which will be a model of neatness and accuracy. He will find it a wise plan to write his minutes as soon as possible after the meetings of which they are a record. When this is not done interesting facts are apt to be forgotten, and inaccuracies have a chance of creeping into the records. In his "Handbook for Literary and Debating Societies" Mr Laurence M. Gibson, M.A., gives the following suggestions of what the minute book of a Literary and Debating Society should contain:—

1. All resolutions as put from the chair.
2. Every question proposed or put from the chair, whether carried or not.
3. Number of votes given on each division.
4. Names of those who spoke.
5. Chairman's decisions on matters of order.
6. When a postponed or adjourned proceeding is to be considered—which will become an order of the day.
7. All notices of motion—which will become the unfinished business of a following meeting.
8. All documents.
9. A careful index should be kept, or else the book will be useless for reference.

## THE BENEFITS OF DEBATING SOCIETIES.

Debating Societies are capable of conferring many benefits upon their members. Many men who have risen to eminence in later life have been indebted to them for the early development of their powers. It was in the Debating Societies of Eton and Oxford that Mr Gladstone first gave evidence of his commanding oratorical ability. He was an energetic member of the Oxford Union Society, of which he was first Secretary and then President. Surely it is an encouragement for toiling Secretaries to think that Mr Gladstone before them laboured at such work as the writing out of minutes! And the minute-book, still to the fore, shows that what he did in this respect, as in all others, he did thoroughly and well. At the Oxford Union Society Mr Gladstone delivered his famous speech against the Reform Bill which led to his introduction to Parliament. The speech created such a sensation that the then Duke of Newcastle was led to nominate the young speaker as a candidate for the Royal borough of Newark, where the Duke's influence was supreme. In the following year (1832) Mr Gladstone was returned to Parliament as the member for Newark. Mr Gladstone was only one of

### Many Illustrious Men

who have played prominent parts in the debating hall of the Oxford Union. The late Lord Salisbury, as Lord R. Cecil, was Treasurer of the Union. Cardinal Manning preceded Mr Gladstone as President. Tait, long Archbishop of Canterbury; Lord Sherbrooke (Mr Robert Lowe), Lord Coleridge, Professor Bryce, and Mr Asquith have all also been members of this Union. The Oxford Union Society has been instanced here because it is probably the best known of all our Literary Societies. Only a favoured few can enjoy its privileges; but happily the intellectual advantages which it confers may be attained in much humbler surroundings. As Mr Holyoake well says:—"A poor man cannot rival the rich in luxury of life, but he can in luxury of knowledge. He cannot furnish his house as the wealthy can, but he can furnish his head. He cannot found a house of note, but he may found a mind of mark. Though some kingdom may be adorned or afflicted with kings, learning has always been a republic, where all are equal who know." Many objections have

been urged against Debating Societies; but there can be no question that, rightly managed, they confer great benefits upon their members. The very gathering together of kindred spirits for the discussion of knotty problems is bound to exercise

### A Valuable Stimulus.

"Reading," says Bacon, "maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man." All three of these valuable attributes are likely to be furthered by a good Debating Society. There will be need of reading in order to master the subjects; there will be conference; and there will be writing. A Debating Society should teach its members how to express their thoughts. It will help to give them the valuable power of thinking when facing an audience. Facility in speech comes with practice. The mere fact of trying to make our ideas intelligible to our hearers is bound to impress them upon our minds, and to impart clearness and permanency to our knowledge. Criticism is another benefit of Debating Societies. Where this is intelligent and judicious, it may do great good. The young debater will be led to see that there are two sides to a question. Let him "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Let him aim at reaching the truth, cultivating such a spirit as that of Socrates, who said:—"I am one who would gladly be refuted if I should say anything not true—and would gladly refute another, should he say anything not true—but would no less gladly be refuted than refute." Says Dr Whichcote:—"He does me the first good office who makes me right in my notion where I am mistaken; he does me the next good office who awakens and reminds me where I had forgotten." Let members of Debating Societies act on these principles, let them never on any account maintain what is not true, but unweariedly seek the truth; and they will find that their membership brings benefits both great and lasting.

### A SPARE HALF-HOUR

may be most pleasantly passed in reading a good short story, which, if well constructed and well told, will enchain the reader's attention for the time being. Every week the "People's Friend" contains two or three excellent short stories, by popular and experienced authors, and for these alone the "Friend" is well worth buying. It contains in addition, however, a large amount of attractive reading matter, and is a splendid periodical for the home circle.



### A LITERARY SYLLABUS.

It is no easy matter to prepare a syllabus, and many a Secretary has had an unhappy time in the effort. For often he has not only to find the essayists and debaters, but to provide them with subjects. To help to lighten his labours the following hints are offered. First as to the nature of the syllabus—is it to aim at variety, or to attempt to deal systematically with some course of study? The varied syllabus is more generally popular, and by its means a larger membership is likely to be attracted to the Society. How should such a syllabus be proportioned? The final result will, of course, be largely dependent upon the talent at the Secretary's command; but the attainment of a satisfactory end will be facilitated by his setting out with well-defined ideas as to what he wants. He should try to arrange

#### As Many Debates as Possible.

These are usually more attractive than essays, and are probably more useful, provided the subjects discussed are wisely chosen. In arranging for the essays it is well to induce the members to write on subjects with which they are well acquainted. When a member is writing on a subject which he has made a hobby, it is extremely likely that he will write well. Very often people possessed of special knowledge—acquired perhaps in their daily occupation—never think that that knowledge would be interesting to other people because it is so familiar to themselves; whereas it is knowledge of this kind, accurate and at first hand, which people heartily appreciate. Let the subjects of a fair proportion of the papers, therefore, be drawn from the hobbies or occupations of the members. In addition to the ordinary papers it is usual to have a few lectures delivered by eminent people. Musical evenings, lantern exhibitions, impromptu speeches, and such like may well be added, but for these see other sections of this book.

#### Courses of Study.

Having dealt with the ordinary varied syllabus, let us now consider the syllabus which embodies a course of study. Here also there is room for almost infinite variety. A period of history may be taken up, and its leading features dealt with in essays and discussions. A great book may be selected and studied under its various aspects. One of Shakespeare's plays will furnish entertainment for a session, and its systematic study will undoubtedly benefit the members. The following syllabus given some time ago by the Rev.

Alexander Middleton, B.D., in the Barony of Glasgow Parish Magazine shows what may be done in regard to such syllabus. It deals with English thought during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. It gives, it will be seen, a characteristic work of each author, which may be made the subject of closer study and used for purposes of illustration in meetings of the Society. Of course, says Mr Middleton, no one can read the whole. He recommends one work only in a section, and, if possible, one from each of the five sections.

### ENGLISH THOUGHT.

#### During the Third Quarter of 19th Century.

	Field.	Author.	Characteristic Work.
Oct. 1.	INTRODUCTORY LECTURE—Survey of the Period.		
2.	ESSAYISTS,	Froude,	{ Short Studies, Vols. I, II.
3.		Emerson,	{ Society and Solitude.
4.		Lowell,	{ Among my Books.
Nov. 1.	NOVELISTS—Lecture—Function of the Novel.		
2.		Kingsley,	{ Two Years Ago.
3.		MacDonald,	{ Robert Falconer.
4.		George Eliot,	{ Silas Marner.
Dec. 1.	POETS—Lecture—Mission of the Poet.		
2.		{ Matthew Arnold.	{ Selected Poems.
3.		Tennyson,	{ Idylls of the King.
4.		Browning,	{ Christmas Eve and Easter Day; Men and Women.
RECESS.			
Feb. 1.	ETHICAL TEACHERS—Lecture—Characteristics of Modern Thought.		
2.		Carlyle,	{ Heroes and Hero Worship.
3.		Ruskin,	{ Crown of Wild Olive.
4.		{ F. W. Robertson,	{ Life and Letters.
Mar. 1.	SOCIAL REFORMERS—Lecture—The Old Economy and the New.		
2.		Kingsley,	{ Life and Letters.
3.		Ruskin,	{ Unto this Last.
4.		Toynbee,	{ Industrial Revolution.

## PEOPLE'S WEEKLY. PENNY STORIES.

48 Pages, in Bright Cover.  
Publishers: John Leng & Co., Ltd.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR A DEBATE.

**H**OW shall a young debater best prepare himself to uphold a side in a debate? First, let him set out with the determination that he will do his best. Let us suppose that the subject is one in which he is interested, and that he is championing the side which appeals to his convictions. He has not entered the lists arrogantly or boastfully, but bravely and resolutely, and somewhat in the spirit of the oft-quoted advice of Polonius to his son—

“Beware

Of entrance to a quarrel, but being in  
Bear't that the opposer may beware of  
thee.”

While animated by the natural desire to acquit himself well, we trust that our young debater will also be filled with an enthusiasm for the discovery of truth—a feeling which should be the heart's desire of every debater. As the first essential towards doing his best, the young debater must

### Prepare Thoroughly.

He must study all the information that he can find bearing upon the subject. The extent of this information will vary with the nature of the subject under debate. Should the subject be one of those which perennially appear in the syllabuses of Debating Societies, he will find it treated in outline, with copious references in such books as “The Debater,” by Mr Frederick Rowton, or “The Handbook for Literary and Debating Societies.” Even in regard to such subjects, however, the debater will find it to his intellectual advantage not to rely upon such outlines, but to strike out new lines of argument for himself. With many subjects, indeed, the help which can be had from books is slight. Such subjects throw the debater upon his own resources, and compel him to reason out the question in his mind, and as a rule it is such subjects which confer the greatest intellectual benefit. When the subject is one of current interest, the newspapers should be carefully scanned by the debater, as they often contain very useful material. If a library is within his reach, he should consult the catalogue for works likely to help him. The consulting of such a compilation as the “Review of Reviews” Annual Index to Periodicals (now, alas! discontinued) may lead to the discovery of useful matter embedded in the pages of the numerous magazines.

### Marshal His Facts.

Having acquired his facts, the debater's next duty will be to marshal them in battle array. For this purpose the advice given under “How to Write an Essay” will be found useful. Jot down the various points in the argument on slips of paper, and then shuffle these into what is thought to be the best sequence; in accordance with a skeleton plan previously drawn up. One of the first duties of actual composition will be to see that the terms in which the question under debate is expressed are well defined. Each thinker, says Samuel Neil, should explain, “without ambiguity or reservation, the precise meaning which he attaches to the words employed. It is next advisable to announce the limitations or conditions upon which it is intended to reason; to state the kind and quality of the facts to be appealed to, or the authorities to be relied on.” Mr Holyoake pithily puts the rule to be observed in taking part in debate as follows:—

1. To state your case.
2. To clear your case.
3. To prove your case.
4. And then sit down.

“In stating your case,” he continues, “give the other side of the case—if you know it. . . . If you cannot state your opponent's case you do not know it, and if you do not know it you are not in a fit position to argue against it. If you dare not state your opponent's case in its greatest force, you feel it to be stronger than your own, and in that case you ought not to argue against it.” In introducing your case it is well to be quiet and dignified. Remember that

### The Goodwill of the Audience

is important to you, and endeavour to secure it. Show yourself in earnest. Archbishop Magee said—“There are three kinds of preachers. First, the preachers you can't listen to. Second, the preachers you can listen to. Third, the preachers you can't help listening to.” Make up your mind that you will be a debater whom the audience cannot help listening to. Let your sincerity of purpose be undoubted, and see that you make your meaning clear. “First use your logic, then your rhetoric,” said old John Selden. “Rhetoric without logic is like a tree with leaves and blossoms, but no root.” This mention of logic should not discourage readers who have no experience of this science. Logic is the science of reasoning, and “Reasoning,” says Mr Holyoake, “is a simple business. To reason is to state relevant facts in support of a pro-

position. Reason is the faculty of perceiving coherences. Effective reasoning is stating them so that others cannot but see them too."

### Drive Home the Main Point.

Never lose sight of the main point. To do so is a weakness of young debaters, and it will be well for them if there is a kindly Chairman to keep them right. Concentrate your energies to drive home the main point. Do not weary your audience by inflicting upon them every argument you have. You must use discrimination, and select what is likely to prove most convincing. It is often wiser to use repetition to enforce important points than to bring forth fresh arguments of minor significance. To debate calls for the exercise of powers differing from those brought into play in the writing of an essay. The essayist has leisure to give finish to his composition. The debater should have the power of prompt decision and facile utterance. He should be able to think while upon his legs facing an audience, and to give ready expression to his thoughts.

### How to Acquire Debating Ability.

How shall these valuable powers be cultivated? Archbishop Whately advocates the following plan in his book on rhetoric:—"The substance of what is to be spoken on each occasion should be, after reflection, written down, not in the words designed to be uttered (for that would, instead of a help towards the habit of framing expressions extempore, prove an embarrassment), but in brief heads, that as little as possible be left for the speaker to frame at the moment except the mere expressions. By degrees, when practice shall have produced greater self-possession and readiness, a less and less full outline previously written down will suffice, and in time the habit will be generated of occasionally even forming correct judgments and sound and well-expressed arguments on the spur of the moment." While the practice of committing a speech to memory is not to be commended, there is wisdom in young and unpractised speakers learning the exordium and peroration by heart. These are the parts where bashfulness or nervousness may be likely to do most havoc. One closing advice—Rest the mind immediately before the time of meeting. Such a practice is adopted by wise University students before their important examinations, and it is an example well worth following. It will help to send the debater to the meeting with a clear and unworried mind and fit to put forth his best powers.

### HOW TO ACT IN A DEBATE.

In actual debate the young debater should keep himself well within control. If his preparation has been performed as thoroughly and as conscientiously as we have advocated it should greatly help his self-possession. He will also be helped by thinking not of himself, but of his subject. Let him bend all his energies to the placing of his arguments clearly and convincingly before his hearers. He should not begin hurriedly or too loudly, but calmly, reserving his power for later on. Let him speak deliberately; this contributes greatly to self-possession. As he proceeds it will be found restful for both himself and his audience for him to vary his tone of voice. He should avoid egotistical expressions; affectation is sure quickly to estrange an audience. He should strive to get early into touch with his audience, and to hold their attention unflaggingly throughout. Let him finish with a brief but comprehensive summing up of the main arguments for his side of the case. A few telling words should be prepared for the last appeal. After this will come what to the young debater will be the most trying part of the whole proceedings. He will find his carefully constructed argument plucked to pieces, and many of what he considered his most telling points held up to ridicule.

### Let Him Keep His Head

through it all, taking notes of the important points brought forward which it will be worth referring to in his reply. If he has prepared as we have recommended him to prepare he will be already familiar with the arguments brought forward by the opponents of his side, and will be ready to meet and confute them. It is very important how he meets these opponents. Many of the things said may be unpalatable to our young debater, but he has to keep his temper as well as his head. Even although personalities may be used against him, he should not resort to personalities in return. Let him give his opponents credit for acting in sincerity and good faith. The object to be attained is the discovery of the truth, and this end is not likely to be brought any nearer by the imputing of wrong motives to an opponent. Neither should faults of grammar or pronunciation be urged against an opponent. Every personal digression which is brought into the debate obscures the end in view and hinders its attainment. Give your opponent every aid in stating his case, as you can well afford to do if you have faith in your own and confidence in the arguments which you adduce. And if you find you have made a mistake, do not be afraid to admit it frankly.



**SUBJECTS FOR DEBATE.**

Is the Present Government Worthy of Support?

Should Home Rule be Granted to Ireland?

Should Scotland have Home Rule?

Should the House of Lords be Abolished?

Should the Parliamentary Franchise be Extended to Women?

Is Local Option in Regard to the Drink Traffic Desirable?

Does Britain Treat India Justly?

Is our System of Party Government a Good One?

Should Alien Immigration be Restricted?

Should Britain Evacuate Egypt?

Should the Referendum be Introduced into British Politics?

Ought Every Adult Man to have a Vote?

Is a Limited Monarchy the Best Form of Government?

Should Canvassing at Parliamentary Elections be Abolished?

Should the State Supply Free Technical Education?

Should the Universities be Represented in Parliament?

Should the Colonies be Represented in an Imperial Parliament?

Should Perpetual Pensions be Abolished?

Is the Ballot more Desirable than Open Voting?

Should we Establish National Granaries?

Ought we to Restrict the Export of Coal?

Has the Republican Government been Beneficial to France?

Were the Covenanters Justified in taking up Arms?

Was the British Government Justified in Entering upon the Crimean War?

Were the Americans Justified in Asserting their Independence of the Mother Country?

Was the Execution of Mary Queen of Scots Justifiable?

Was Mahomet an Impostor?

Had Charles Edward, the Chevalier of 1745, any Right to the British Throne?

Is the Character of Queen Elizabeth Worthy of Admiration?

Were the Crusades Beneficial to Europe?

Was the System of Colonisation practised by the Romans more Efficient than our own?

Will Britain Decay as the Great Nations of Antiquity have Done?

Was Joan of Arc an Impostor?

Was the Execution of Charles I. Justifiable?

Was Brutus Justified in Killing Cæsar?

Was the Foreign Policy of Cromwell to the Advantage of Great Britain?

Should the Half-Time System be Abolished?

Should Arbitration in Trade Disputes be Enforced by Law?

Is Britain, as a Nation, Rising or Falling? Has the Introduction of Machinery done more Harm than Good?

Should all Patents be Abolished?

Should Parliament enact an Eight Hours Working Day?

Is Profit-Sharing the Cure for Labour Troubles?

Are Trades Unions, on the whole, Beneficial or Mischievous?

Should Life Assurance be Supported and made Compulsory by the State?

Is Co-Operation Capable of General Adoption and Success?

Is Limited Liability in Public Companies Productive of Harm?

Ought Taxation to Press Equally upon Capital and Labour?

Is Co-Operative Trading Unjust to Private Enterprise?

Should the Formation of a Class of Peasant Proprietors be Encouraged by Government?

Should the Theatre receive State Support?

Is Vivisection Justifiable and Necessary in the Interests of Science and Humanity?

Is the Present System of Competitive Examination Prejudicial to Intellectual Development?

Is the Consumption of Luxuries by the Rich Beneficial to the Producing Classes?

Ought the Law of Primogeniture to be Repealed?

Are Colonies a source of Strength to the Mother Country?

Should the Game Laws be Abolished?

Is Direct or Indirect Taxation Preferable?

Are there circumstances in which Expediency should determine a Nation's Action?

Is a Republic the best form of Government?

Should Britain Restrict the Opium Trade in the East?

Has the Feudal System benefited Europe?

Should Britain annex Afghanistan?

Should there be State Endowment for Research?

Should the Income Tax be Abolished?

Was Sir Walter Scott's Estimate of the Covenanters incorrect?

Did Britain Acquire her Indian Possessions by justifiable measures?

Ought Government to Assist Missionary Enterprise?

Does the Severity of Punishment tend to Diminish Crime?

Is the Political Conduct of Milton entitled to Approbation?

Does the Press exercise more Power than the Pulpit?

Is Resistance to the Law ever justifiable? Is British Art declining?

- Is Hereditary Legislation under any circumstances desirable?
- Have we too many Periodicals?
- Ought Horse-Racing to be Abolished?
- Can the Middleman be eliminated?
- Should the Revised Version of the Bible be used in our Churches?
- Is Russia Great because or in spite of Serfdom?
- Should the Rights of Individuals ever be suspended for the Interests of the State?
- Should Vagrancy be entirely Prohibited?
- Is Drunkenness Curable by Legislation?
- Ought Emigration to be made Compulsory on the Able-Bodied Poor?
- Was Byron or Scott the Greater Poet?
- Are Men naturally as Vain as Women?
- Was Queen Mary accessory to the Murder of Darnley?
- Is Virtue always its own Reward?
- Are Early Marriages beneficial to Mankind?
- Was the Overthrow of the Roman Empire of Advantage to Europe?
- Does it Pay to get Married?
- Is Christmas Observance the Duty of a Christian?
- Should Men Shave?
- Is Imperial Federation practicable?
- Should Women wear Feathers?
- Was George Eliot a Hypocrite?
- Is Poverty Diminishing?
- Have Animals Intelligence?
- Should every Man be trained as a Soldier?
- Should a Wife brush her Husband's Boots?
- Should the State provide Old Age Pensions?
- Can Self-denial ever be Immoral?
- Should the Ringing of Church Bells be Prohibited?
- Was the Banishment of Napoleon to St Helena warranted?
- Ought Warren Hastings to have been acquitted?
- Did the French Revolution affect beneficially the Social Interests of Europe?
- Is Novel-Reading prejudicial to Morality?
- Should the Liberty of the Press be extended to India?
- Whether does Agriculture or Commerce tend more to make a people happy?
- Who is best off—Employer or Employee?
- Should the Church of Scotland use a Liturgy?
- Will Women Rule the World?
- Should Feu-Duties be Taxed?
- Are our Athletic Sports being carried to Excess?
- Should the Weather as a Topic be Abolished?
- Are Long or Short Engagements best?
- Was Hamlet mad?
- Should Cycles be Taxed?
- Is the Freedom of the Press conducive to Public Morality?
- Is the Advance of Science prejudicial to the Growth of Poetry?
- Is the General Influence of Fiction at the present day Injurious?
- Do Classics occupy too prominent a position in Education?
- Has Poetry had more Influence for Good than Prose History?
- Is Ruskin's Theory of Wealth Sound?
- Have Dramatic Representations in public an inevitable tendency to deprave Morals?
- Is the Intellect of Man Superior to that of Woman?
- Should Girls marry beneath them?
- Should Capital Punishment be Abolished?
- Are Poor Men shut out from the Learned Professions?
- Should Vivisection be Forbidden by Law?
- Are Women Meaner than Men?
- Is Angling a Cruel Sport?
- Should Church Choirs be Paid?
- Should Cremation be generally introduced?
- Can Territorial Aggression by a Nation ever be justified on grounds of Morality?
- Are the United States of America destined to become the Greatest Country in the World?
- Does Poetry decline as Civilisation advances?
- Is Anonymous Journalism beneficial?
- Is Sarcasm a fit means of promoting Truth?
- Is Occasional War preferable to Perpetual Peace?
- Do Government Bounties tend to the Encouragement of Commerce?
- Should Ladies attend Football Matches?
- Is the Pulpit losing its Power?
- Does Marriage make Men Mean?
- Should Life Insurance be Compulsory?
- Can we have an Ideal Theatre?
- Should Sermons be Short or Long?
- Does Scotland owe Most to Scott or Burns?
- Is Prosperity or Adversity the Greater Trial of Virtue?
- Should Phonetic Spelling be Introduced?
- Is Photography a Fine Art?
- Is the Human Race Deteriorating?
- Should a Woman take her Husband's Name?
- Should Actions for Breach of Promise be Abolished?
- Is Vegetarianism a Success?
- Should Volunteers be Paid?
- Do Charity Organisation Societies do Good or Harm?
- Is Ambition a Lawful Christian Motive?
- Does Education remove Superstition?
- Have we sufficient evidence, apart from Scripture, to believe in the Immortality of the Soul?

- Would we choose to Live our Lives over again?
- Ought Corporal Punishment to be Abolished in Schools?
- Are Pain and Death Blessings or Curses?
- Are Handsome Husbanus the Best?
- Is the Habitual Use of Tobacco Injurious?
- Do Men like Clever Women?
- Should Vaccination be Compulsory?
- Does Modern Dress need Reform?
- Should Politics influence Local Elections?
- Has the Invention of Gunpowder been a Curse?
- Are Scotsmen better Soldiers than Englishmen?
- Has Christianity improved the Morals of Nations?
- Ought the Police Force to be Local or National?
- Is the Poetry of the Cavaliers superior to that of the Puritans?
- Is the Negro capable of as much Improvement under culture as the White Man?
- Is Spiritualism True?
- Should Women be Admitted to the Professions?
- Are Y.M.C.A.'s, as at present carried on, a Success?
- Is Falsehood ever justifiable?
- Is Temperance at present a higher form of Morality than Total Abstinence?
- Should Residence be necessary for Electoral Qualification?
- Is War Beneficial to the Human Race?
- Are Standing Armies conducive to the Maintenance of Peace?
- Does Moral Progress increase with the Increase of Mental and Material Progress?
- Is an Advocate ever morally justified in refusing a Case?
- Ought the Negroes of America to be admitted to the Suffrage?
- Is the Principle of Non-Intervention in Foreign Politics a Sound One?
- Is Phrenology to be depended upon in Judging of Character?
- Is the Abolition of War a necessary result of the Advance of Civilisation?
- Should Members of Parliament be Paid?
- Is it Lawful to Retaliate an Injury?
- Should Bachelors be Taxed?
- Is a Standing Army necessary?
- Can a Woman Keep a Secret?
- Is War Murder?
- Should the Drink Traffic be Nationalised?
- Does Labour get a fair share of what it Produces?
- Ought Christians to be Soldiers?
- Is Lynch Law ever justifiable?
- Do the Scriptures warrant the conclusion that the whole Human Race shall be Saved?
- Is Society Journalism pernicious in its tendency?
- Do the Scriptures sanction the use of Intoxicating Liquors as Beverages?
- Is the Theological Novel a desirable development in Literature?
- Are the Landed Gentry worth Preserving?
- Do Great Sinners make Great Saints?
- Should Unfermented Wine be used at the Communion Table?
- Does Ill-Health improve People's Characters?
- Should Dangerous Performances be Prohibited?

### MAGIC LANTERN EXHIBITIONS.

The magic lantern will be found to be a most valuable aid to Mutual Improvement Societies. The Society which possesses a lantern will be able to add a brightness to its syllabus which less fortunate Societies will find it very difficult to equal. But the benefits of the lantern can in some measure be secured without the expense of purchasing an instrument. Lanterns can easily be had on hire, and so also can slides to illustrate an almost infinite variety of subjects. Quite a number of essays and lectures might be illustrated by means of the lantern, to the mutual advantage of both speaker and audience. But even an essay or lecture is not necessary to have a pleasant evening with the lantern, as the lantern-hirers supply descriptive reading with the various sets of slides, which makes the arrangement for an exhibition a very easy matter. The hirers will even undertake the whole arrangements and supply a reader; but, of course, the cost of the exhibition is in such a case considerably enhanced. As a helpful hint to Societies in want of a lantern exhibition at a moderate cost, it may be mentioned that the conductors of the "People's Friend" have been in the habit of lending out gratis to their subscribers various sets of lantern slides with descriptive lecture. The sets include—"Across Canada with a Camera," "The Capabilities of the Camera," "A Trip to London," "A Nicht wi' Burns," "The Land of Burns and Scott," "A Trip through Erin's Isle," "Round the World in 100 Minutes," and "Picturesque Wales." A lantern can be hired for about half a guinea, or with an operator for about one guinea. For the practical management of the lantern, including directions for producing the limelight, making oxygen gas, preparing slides, &c., the reader is referred to T. C. Hepworth's book, "The Magic Lantern, and Its Management," published by Chatto & Windus at 1s and 1s 6d.



## LOCAL PARLIAMENTS.

**L**OCAL Parliaments form an important development of the Debating Society idea. These Parliaments are gatherings of amateur politicians, where the routine of proceedings is modelled after the great assembly at Westminster. There is a Prime Minister, Cabinet, and Ministry, a recognised Opposition, a Speaker, Clerk of the House, and Sergeant-at-Arms. As in the House of Commons, business begins with notices of motion and the asking of questions. Question time in these assemblies is often even more lively than at Westminster. A perfect delight is taken in calling forth the resources of the various Ministers in dealing with puzzling inquiries regarding their respective Departments. Then comes the sterner business of the evening. Perhaps a new Bill is introduced, and it progresses through its various stages very much as in the National Parliament. Or it may be that the conduct of the Ministry has challenged a vote of censure, which the Opposition accordingly attempt to carry. The subjects discussed vary quite as much as they do at Westminster; indeed, questions are often debated which the House of Commons have not yet come to look upon as being within the region of practical politics. In local Parliaments speakers are usually limited to ten or fifteen minutes. The speaking is of a high average ability, and in some of these Parliaments is said to compare not unfavourably with that of Westminster itself.

### Early Local Parliaments.

To Liverpool belongs the honour of starting the first of these local Parliaments, the noteworthy event taking place in 1860. Of course, there were Discussion Societies somewhat similar in constitution hundreds of years before that. In an interesting article on London Mock Parliaments contributed to "Harper's New Monthly Magazine" a number of years ago, Mr John Lillie enumerates several of the more interesting of these ancient bodies. Thus, there was "Ye Antient Society of Coggers," established as far back as 1755, and numbering among its members such historic personages as John Wilkes, John Philpot Curran, Daniel O'Connell, and Judge Keogh. "The Temple Discussion Forum" was an even more ancient institution, as it was established in 1667. Mr Lillie goes on to describe a visit to the Kensington Parliament, one of the best specimens of a local Parliament. Here there is once a month a "Ladies' Night," when visitors are invited, and when everybody is in evening

dress, and it was on such a night that his visit was paid. "In the centre of the room was a table long enough to seat a dozen people, and here in solemn conclave sat the Ministry, with the Speaker of the House at the top, all looking as serious as if they felt the Empire to be regarding them. There were the Premier, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the five Secretaries of State, the Postmaster-General, Solicitor-General, Attorney-General, and various other exalted officials, all in their proper places. Near by were clustered the Junior Lords of the Treasury and Liberal Whips, and in the cross benches were arrayed the members of Parliament, all looking as real as if they had never been anything else. A little to the rear sat the ladies in their daintiest toilets, and tea was served to them continually throughout the evening." It is a pretty picture that is here described. Others of our local Parliaments are less fashionable in their membership and less luxurious in their surroundings, but not less beneficent in the work which they do. And it is a great work which is accomplished by these Parliaments.

### Important Questions Discussed.

In ordinary Debating Societies the subjects discussed are often trivial and useless. It is seldom so in the discussions of these local Parliaments. They deal with the questions of the hour affecting the nation. To take an intelligent part in the proceedings of a local Parliament a man must be well versed in current affairs. He will have to study the newspapers assiduously and carefully. If he seek to equip himself thoroughly, he will strive to master the history of his own and other countries. (For our own country John R. Green's "Short History of the English People"—Macmillan: 8s 6d—is a most inspiring volume. It might be supplemented by Mr Justin McCarthy's "Short History of Our Own Times"—popular edition 2s 6d). In an admirable address delivered at the opening of the Dundee Parliament in 1898, Mr Thomas Shaw, Q.C., M.P., ex-Solicitor-General for Scotland, spoke on

### The Equipment of the Politician,

and recommended with all earnestness the study of history and the study of economics. In these two subjects, he said, the past, present, and future of political duty and development are either presented or suggested. The man who has a wide mastery of these great domains of experience and of reasoning has equipped himself more powerfully than his less fortunate

or less industrious fellows for the public service of his age or country. Proceeding, Mr Shaw recommended as particularly educative periods of historical study the Fall of the Stuarts and the Fall of the Bourbons. He asserted that a study of economics forms an essential part of the training of the politician, and that, indeed, without it he runs the risk of becoming a rambling sentimentalist or a dangerous crotcheteer. So much, then, for local Parliaments. They are valuable institutions, and it would be well for our land were there more of them in existence. Not only do they promote a healthy interest in current affairs, but they do much to promote a wider outlook among their members on the world and its future problems which must be of great value in the years to come. They are the equals, or more than the equals, of Debating Societies, as training schools for public speakers, and their proceedings almost always possess a definiteness and living interest which are only too frequently wanting in the ordinary Debating Society.

#### THE MANUSCRIPT MAGAZINE.

An excellent means of lending variety to a syllabus may be found in the Manuscript Magazine. This is a magazine made up of short contributions from various members of the Society. One member is appointed Editor, and to him the contributions are sent. He arranges them and supplies a short introduction and then the whole is read at a meeting set apart for the purpose. Each contribution bears a *nom-de-plume*, and it can therefore be freely criticised by the assembled members without the writer feeling that the remarks are of a personal nature. A painstaking Editor will copy out the contents of the magazine in his own handwriting, and so remove any risk of the identity of the writers being disclosed. The magazine will be found an excellent means of inducing young and timid members to make a start in contributing to the syllabus of the Society, and the reading and discussion of it will always form an attractive item on the programme for the session.

#### A FRIEND INDEED

is just what the "People's Friend" has all along proved itself to be. No one who has ever known this "Friend" has turned his or her back upon it. It contains something for everybody. Ask your news-agent to introduce you to the "Friend;" it will cost you a Penny, but you will find it worth the money over and over again.

#### FACTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM.

In his admirable essay on "How to become a Journalist," Mr W. T. Stead remarks:—"If a perfect journalist should not know everything—which is, perhaps, expecting too much even from perfection—he ought to know exactly where the people live who do know everything." This same faculty will be found of infinite use to the debater and essayist. Facts are often difficult to find when wanted; but a knowledge of the various leading books of reference is generally helpful in the search. First, there are the dictionaries; but something has already been said of these in another section. Then there are the encyclopædias. Of these Chambers's (10 volumes, 10s each) is the most generally useful. It is a perfect library of information, and is brought well up to date. The Annual Index to Periodicals ("Review of Reviews" Office) was a guide to the seeker after facts in the wilderness of periodical literature. It is now discontinued, but the back volumes are of great value to debaters. For details as to the lives of the great men of our own country, the Dictionary of National Biography, a monumental work, is most useful. The index volume can be bought separately. It gives very concise summaries of the biographies. An excellent smaller Biographical Dictionary is that published by Chambers at 10s 6d. A Classical Dictionary which can be had at small cost is Lempriere's, published by Routledge at 3s 6d. A good atlas is an indispensable adjunct to the man who wants to make most of his reading. The Citizen's Atlas (Newnes: 20 parts at 6d each) is splendid value. The same may be said of the Harmsworth Atlas. Brewer's "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable" (Cassell: 10s 6d) is a most useful reference book, and deals in an interesting way with many words which are not to be found in other dictionaries. There are a number of annual reference books which should be kept in mind when facts in regard to present-day affairs are being sought after. Among these may be mentioned Hazell's Annual (3s 6d yearly), Oliver & Boyd's Edinburgh Almanac (7s 6d and 1s per annum), Whitaker's Almanac (2s 6d, or 1s per annum), The Statesman's Year Book (Macmillan: 10s 6d per annum), and the "Daily Mail" Year Book, a perfect mine of information on current topics at the small charge of sixpence. Haydn's Dictionary of Dates (Ward, Lock, & Co.) is a very useful volume for historical references. The various volumes of the Annual Register give the history of their respective years in concise form. A huge mass of information more or less interesting

is to be found in the various Blue Books and Parliamentary Papers. These are issued by Messrs Eyre & Spottiswoode, who will forward a catalogue. Of course, our readers are not expected to purchase all the volumes we have named. They would require to have long purses in order to be able to do so. But these works are to be found in most district libraries, and can be consulted with advantage. The monumental Encyclopædia Britannica is another work of reference which should not be neglected. By means of the index volume, it is not difficult to have access to the treasury of information which it contains on almost every subject.

### HOW TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG MEMBERS.

To induce young and timid members to take part in the carrying on of the Society is always a difficult matter. It is the first step that they are most awkward in taking, and the leaders of the Society should see that the young members are afforded every opportunity of making a beginning. The Manuscript Magazine, elsewhere described, is a useful aid to this end. The feature known as "Hat Subjects" may also serve the purpose, and induce a shy member to make his maiden speech. Probably a better plan is the appointment of the various members in turn to open the discussion on the subject for the evening. Much good may be done by the setting apart of one or two nights during the session for the hearing of short papers. These may last only five minutes, and many members whom diffidence may keep from attempting a long essay may be induced to start in this way. It is well to have some connection between the different subjects selected for treatment on any one evening. Thus, half a dozen members may each be got to contribute a five-minutes' paper on "My Favourite Game," "My Favourite Book," or some such easy topic. A good Chairman will do much to encourage young members to take part in the meetings. No undue pressure should, however, be exerted. The fear of being forced into writing an essay keeps some young men away from Literary Societies, and these young men are likely to be equally unwilling to being coerced into making, or attempting to make, a speech. A golden rule for young and untried speakers is "Stand up when you have something to say, and, having said it, sit down." Don't remain on your feet a moment after you have finished. If your remarks are to the point, they will be all the more appreciated because they are brief.

### THE CARE OF BOOKS.

The bookman loves his books. Some collectors almost go the length of worshipping them. Many owners of books provide costly bookcases for them. The fashion in bookcases is changeable. At one time almost every case was closed in with glass doors. These help to keep out the dust, but they are rather cumbrous in usage, and the framework prevents some of the books from being seen when the doors are closed. The man, who has not much money to spend will be better served by bookshelves than by bookcases. For a moderate sum a carpenter will provide the shelves in white wood. The owner may then finish them off himself by painting, varnishing, or enamelling them. Some people think that an edging of scalloped leather enhances the appearance of the shelves, but others like to have a full view of the books.

It is difficult to keep books free from dust, and there are other enemies. The bookworm (literal) is not so much of a pest as it used to be. Pieces of linen soaked in essence of turpentine, camphor, or an infusion of tobacco should be placed in their haunts. The sprinkling of a little fine pepper on the shelf is also recommended.

#### Leather Bindings.

Leather bindings are generally looked upon as superior to cloth, but they need greater attention. Once the leather loses its natural oil it becomes brittle. Books kept in warm rooms are particularly liable to suffer in this way. The cure is to add artificial oil to the leather, Vaseline will do. It should be applied with a piece of raw cotton, only using as much vaseline as the leather will absorb thoroughly. Books that are treated in this way every year or two will not readily crack at the binding.

#### How to Open a Book.

Much depends upon the treatment which a book receives from its owner when it first falls into his hands. The following advice upon "How to Open a Book" has been issued by a large publishing firm:—

"The book should be held with its back on a smooth table, then the front board cover should be let down, the leaves being held in one hand. Next, the other board cover should be let down. Following this operation, a few leaves should be opened at the back, then a few at the front, and so on, alternately opening back and front, gently pressing open the sections till the centre of the volume is reached."



## HINTS FOR READERS AND RECITERS.

Our space will not allow anything more than a few general rules for the guidance of readers and reciters. The fact is by no means a disadvantage for those who come to this book for guidance, as in regard to reading and reciting a multitude of rules often do more harm than good. All rules and other restrictions which tend to make the reader or reciter artificial and unnatural are bad. Archbishop Whately in the chapter on Eloquence in his book of Rhetoric reasons out this point in masterly style, and the speaker or reciter will be greatly benefited by carefully reading his arguments.

### How to Secure the Natural Manner.

To secure the natural manner which he so highly recommends, Archbishop Whately advises the reader or reciter not only to pay no studied attention to the voice, but studiously to withdraw the thoughts from it, and to dwell as intently as possible on the sense, trusting to nature to suggest spontaneously the proper emphases and tones. "A reader is sure to pay too much attention to his voice, not only if he pays any at all, but if he does not strenuously labour to withdraw his attention from it altogether. He who not only understands fully what he is reading but is earnestly occupying his mind with the matter of it, will be likely to read as if he understood it, and thus to make others understand it; and in like manner, with a view to the impressiveness of the delivery, he who not only feels it but is exclusively absorbed with that feeling, will be likely to read as if he felt it, and to communicate the impression to his hearers. But this cannot be the case if he is occupied with the thought of what their opinion will be of his reading, and, how his voice ought to be regulated; if, in short, he is thinking of himself, and, of course, in the same degree, abstracting his attention from that which ought to occupy it exclusively."

### Emphasis Suggested by the Sense.

Another advocate of the natural manner is Mr G. J. Holyoake. He lays great stress upon mastering the meaning of the passage to be read or delivered. "The emphasis which is suggested by the sense is," he says, "the best guide. Let a person make sure of the sense and his emphasis will be natural and varied. By natural is meant giving the chief force

to those words upon which the meaning turns. . . . No one can recite with propriety what he does not feel, and the key to gesture, as well as to modulation, is earnestness. No actor can portray character with truth unless he can realise it, and he can only realise it by making it for a time his own."

### Choosing a Subject.

Choosing a good subject is often half the battle. Do not be easily satisfied, but seek until you find one suited for your audience. Consider the nature of the meeting at which you are to read or recite. A piece which may be excellently suited for one gathering may be out of place at another. At social meetings humour is always welcome; but do not let your humour descend into vulgarity. Having chosen your piece, master it. Let there be no dubiety in your mind as to its meaning. Strive to understand it thoroughly. Commit it to heart so thoroughly that no nervousness will drive it from you. When your time comes to recite, forget all about yourself, your voice, your manner. Be so wrapped up in your subject that all else will be oblivious to you. Doing so, you are likely to carry your audience out of themselves, and to achieve a reciter's best success.

### DISTINCT UTTERANCE.

The first requisite in all good speech is intelligibility; so that the listeners can know exactly what is being read, or spoken. To this end I think that not only every word, but every syllable should be uttered distinctly. Nothing should be slurred over, and nothing omitted, as if the speaker had defective teeth, or a false palate; and the listener was expected to guess or infer what was said, and to supply what was omitted. The vowel sounds must be pronounced with clearness, but the consonants not less so; and the distinction which exists between the letters—as dentals, sibilants, gutturals—observed. But some readers introduce the dentals in wrong places, and put sibilants where they ought not to be; so that variety of speech—corresponding to the several organs of utterance—is lost in a monotony that is worse than stammering, so far at least as the listener is concerned. —From an address on the Art of Public Speaking and Reading delivered to the Theological Students of the Bishop of Worcester's College at Hartlebury by Professor Knight. (Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 2d.)

## FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATIONS.

**O**F all the meetings described in this book there are probably none more highly appreciated by those who take part in them than the meetings of Fellowship Associations. It is certain that there are none more potent for lasting good. A well-conducted Fellowship meeting provides for its members an hour of strengthening and uplifting communion with one another and with God. For the fellowship which is implied in this case is more than ordinary companionship; it is communion of human beings met for the highest purposes and trusting in the divine promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name there am I in the midst of them." No church should be without its Fellowship Association. It is an institution which tends greatly to the deepening of spiritual life, it encourages Bible study, and helps to train Sunday School teachers and other Christian workers.

### How Fellowship Meetings are Conducted.

Before going further, it will be well for the benefit of those unacquainted with such meetings to describe what they are and how they are conducted. The meetings are usually held on Sunday morning an hour before the time when the church service begins. They are generally opened by the singing of a Psalm or hymn. Then comes a prayer, usually by the Chairman; next another hymn, followed by the reading of the portion of Scripture bearing upon the subject for the occasion. The Chairman then introduces the writer of the paper for the day. After the reading of the paper there is a short discussion, then another hymn, and the meeting is concluded by a short prayer. Such is the common routine, but, of course, it can be varied to suit particular circumstances. For the praise portion of the service it is well if some instrument is available. Some one should be appointed conductor, and should have charge of this part of the proceedings. Of course, he will see that only simple tunes are chosen.

### The Chairman.

What has been said elsewhere about the Chairman of other Societies applies with even greater force to the Chairman of a Fellowship Association. Much depends upon his earnestness and tact. He should do his best to master his subject for each

day, and endeavour to draw out remarks from the various members. His opening prayer should not be too long, and should be simple and pointed. He will have a great opportunity of exerting personal influence upon the members. The young ones he should encourage to zealously and earnestly study the Bible. Under his influence they may be led gradually to take part in the proceedings, beginning with a few words of criticism on the papers, and leading up to writing papers and taking part in the devotional exercises. A quarter of an hour is a good length for a Fellowship paper. No debatable points should be introduced, and it is well that there should be

### No Unfriendly Criticism.

To introduce adverse remarks is to run the danger of frustrating the objects of the Fellowship meeting. The members have not met for the development of critical powers, but for fellowship in holy things. The best Fellowship papers are not always written by the cleverest members. There is a great truth in the saying of St Paul that Christ sent him to preach the Gospel, "not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect." . . . "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." It is a suggestive fact that Jesus chose his Apostles not from the great and learned of the world, but from fishermen and others of lowly occupation.

### Earnestness.

Earnestness is one of the most valuable qualities in a Fellowship paper. And the member who is in earnest will do his best by means of study and application to make his paper as perfect as possible from the literary as well as the religious point of view. If a Fellowship Association is really to flourish, the members must interest themselves in the work, and prepare themselves beforehand for the meetings. The subject should be set down on the syllabus so that the members may have every opportunity of studying it. Young members who may not be equal to making extemporaneous remarks should be encouraged to write out something on the subject for the day and to read this to the meeting. In place of the Scripture lesson being read by the Chairman or a single member, it often contributes to the interest of a meeting to have it read verse about by the members. The success of an Association will also depend greatly upon

the spirit in which the members enter upon the work.

### Brotherliness.

Brotherliness should be a feature in all the proceedings. Steadfastness of purpose should animate the members. There are sure to be discouragements, and when these come the members must go on in faith. In such a time strength will be found in the thought that the work is Christ's. It is true that he always wins who sides with God. Let all work be done as unto God and not unto men. The worker who thus labours is superior to all earthly discouragements. Sometimes there is considerable difficulty experienced in getting papers for every week of a session, and in such a case certain days should be set apart for the reading and study of some special chapter of the Bible. Let the chapter be read verse about, and let the members ask questions on points of difficulty, or make remarks tending to its elucidation and the bringing home of its lesson to all.

### HOW TO START A FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION.

The minister, or some one of influence in the church, should call a preliminary meeting of the young people, and explain to them the benefits of uniting in Fellowship work. A few persons who have been active in Christian work should be spoken to privately beforehand, and their sympathies enlisted. The appointment of a good Secretary to organise and arrange everything is of primary importance. The members of Session should encourage the work by occasional, if not regular, attendance at the meetings, but should not monopolise the management, leaving the responsibility for that on the young people's shoulders. Although it is most essential that the minister should assist at the initiation of the Association, it should not, when fairly started, be dependent on him. The Fellowship Association is expected to be a help to a minister, not an addition to his labours.

#### Some of its Benefits.

1. It promotes the individual searching and study of the Bible.
2. It promotes the spiritual growth of the members.
3. It promotes Christian Fellowship throughout the congregation.
4. It is a great means of strength to a church, and furnishes a band of workers.
5. It affords members excellent opportunities for practising public prayer and speaking, thus forming a training ground

for future church workers, members of Session, and ministers.

6. Strangers coming to the church find a warm welcome in the Association, and the friendships formed here are likely to be mutually beneficial.

7. It fosters an interest in home and foreign missions.

8. The Association is an admirable link between the Sabbath School and the church.

9. The meeting on Sabbath morning is the best preparation for "the public and private exercises of God's worship."

10. It affords a means of intercourse between the young people and the minister, as difficulties may be referred to him and answered from the pulpit.

("N.S.W. Fellowship Union Witness.")

### FELLOWSHIP SYLLABUSES.

The work of drawing up the syllabus can, with advantage, be entrusted to a small Committee. This greatly lightens the labours of the Secretary, and may secure a better programme for the session. Fellowship syllabuses are of many kinds. Some of them can scarcely be distinguished from those of secular organisations. This, however, is generally found to be a mistake. The Bible is the book upon which the study of members of Fellowship Associations should be concentrated. The subjects for the various papers should not be selected at haphazard, but should fit into a definite scheme. When this is done, the meetings are far more likely to be educative in their effect. The subjects may even be drawn up to accord with the International Scheme of Sunday School Lessons, or with whatever scheme is in use in the church in question. When this is done the writers of the papers have a mass of helpful notes ready to their hand. There is the additional benefit that the Fellowship Association then becomes of great use in fitting the Sunday School teachers for their work. The following is an example of a good general syllabus:—

#### A Good Fellowship Syllabus.

St Michael's, Edinburgh, 1897-98.

- Subjects—1. The Parables of our Lord.  
2. Bible Characters.  
3. Missionary Biographies.

- Oct. 3. Opening Address—Rev. George Wilson.  
" 10. The Hid Treasure and Pearl of Great Price—Matt. xiii. 44-46.  
" 17. Ruth, the Virtuous.  
" 24. Inter-Association Meeting in Gorgie Free Church Hall.  
" 31. Communion—Devotional.



- Nov. 7. The Unmerciful Servant — Matt. xviii. 21-35.  
 „ 14. Samuel, the Obedient.  
 „ 21. Robert and Mary Moffat (Africa).  
 „ 28. United Meeting with Women's Association.
- Dec. 5. The Marriage of the King's Son — Matt. xxii. 1-14.  
 „ 12. Saul, the Disobedient.  
 „ 19. Rev. William C. Burns (China).  
 „ 26. United Meeting.
- Jan. 2. Communion—Devotional.  
 „ 9 The Good Samaritan—Luke x. 30-37.  
 „ 16. St Andrew, the Helper (Inter-Association Meeting).  
 „ 23. David, the Broken-Hearted.  
 „ 30. United Meeting.
- Feb. 6. The Friend at Midnight—Luke xi. 5-8; The Unjust Judge — Luke xviii. 1-8.  
 „ 13. Solomon, the Wise.  
 „ 20. Dr Duff (India).  
 „ 27. United Meeting.
- Mar. 6. The Unjust Steward—Luke xvi. 1-9.  
 „ 13. Daniel, the True.  
 „ 20. Dr W. A. Scott (Africa).  
 „ 27. Communion—Devotional.
- Apr. 3. The Pharisee and Publican — Luke xviii. 9-14.  
 „ 10. John Williams (Polynesia).  
 „ 24. United Meeting.
- May 1. The Pounds—Luke xix. 11-27.  
 „ 8. St John, the Beloved.  
 „ 15. Guild Foreign Mission.  
 „ 22. Henry Martyn (India).  
 „ 29. Closing Address—Rev. George Wilson.

#### Authorities on Subjects.

THE PARABLES.—Commentaries by Trench, Arnott, Dods, Bruce, and Taylor.

BIBLE CHARACTERS. — Books by Guthrie, Landels, and Candlish. See also Library Catalogues.

BIOGRAPHIES.—Robert and Mary Moffat, by their Son; Burns, by Islay Burns; Dr Duff, by George Smith; Dr Scott, by Rev. W. H. Rankine; John Williams, by Campbell; Henry Martyn, by Sargent.

#### HOW TO WRITE A FELLOWSHIP PAPER.

The first step in writing a Fellowship paper, as in writing any other paper, is to fix upon a subject. If you have not much experience in writing, it will be well not to be too ambitious in your choice. A Bible narrative or biography will furnish a comparatively easy subject for a beginner. Having fixed upon your subject, study carefully the portion of the Bible bearing upon it. Read it with dictionary and atlas and cyclopædia if need be, and endeavour to master its meaning. Read the Authorised Version and read the Revised Version, and carefully compare the two. Such a comparison often throws valuable light upon many points. Turn up and read attentively all the passages indicated in the marginal references. There is nothing like the Bible for interpreting the Bible. No doubt during this

reading helpful thoughts bearing upon the subject will have occurred to you, and these should be jotted down on slips of paper. All your general reading should also be laid under contribution, to furnish you with interesting illustrations. So much of preparation every writer can achieve by means of industry alone. Should he come short in these respects he has his laziness to blame. But in a good Fellowship paper there is more than industry can effect. There is heart and soul. The message of the paper must ring true from the heart of its writer. He will speak not in censoriousness and self-righteousness; but in love and meekness. The man who is writing a Fellowship paper should be frequently in prayer. A loving heart and a clear understanding should then be his, and he will be able to give a message of real help and strength to his fellows. As for the practical work of writing the paper, guidance will be found in the other parts of this book more directly dealing with composition.

#### FELLOWSHIP TEXT-BOOKS.

Useful books for Fellowship Associations are so numerous that we have only space here for a few very general remarks on the subject. Of course, the chief text-book is the Bible itself. So many good editions, with every variety of helps, are now published that it is hard to particularise. Ask a bookseller to show you a few, and select the one that best suits your pocket, and seems most likely to help you. A volume of these Teachers' Editions of the Bible is really a library in itself. A concordance is always useful. Robert Young's "Analytical Concordance to the Bible" is published by the Religious Tract Society at one guinea. Cruden's Concordance can be obtained in a choice of cheap editions. For critical study the various volumes of the Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges are excellent. Where they cannot be afforded, the cheaper series, The Smaller Cambridge Bible for Schools, should be substituted. Of commentaries, that by Brown and Fausset, published by Collins, is very good and handy. So also is the edition in half a dozen 4s volumes published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Cassell & Co.'s cheap edition of Bishop Ellicott's Commentary has brought a great and scholarly work within general reach. Dean Farrar's helpful books for Bible students are now also to be had in easily accessible editions. "Synthetic Bible Studies," or "Through the Bible in a Year" (Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier, 6s net), is a book that ought to be bought if at all possible. The Guild Library (A.

& C. Black: 1s 6d each) contains valuable works which should by no means be overlooked. The Library is a development of the series of Guild Text-Books (Black: 6d each). Either in the sixpenny or eighteen-penny form these books will be found worthy of the most careful attention. The Handbooks for Bible Classes and Private Students (T. & T. Clark: various prices) and Bible Class Primers (T. & T. Clark: 6d each) also contain trustworthy work. Many of the works designed for the use of Sunday School teachers will be found very useful to members of Fellowship Associations. In connection with the International Scheme of Lessons numerous helps are issued, some of them of great excellence. The Scottish Sabbath School Teachers' Book (R. & R. Clark: 3 grades, 2s each) is admirably prepared. "The Library of Devotion" (Methuen, 2s per volume) is a most useful series for Fellowship Workers. The biographies of John Wesley, George Fox, John Woolman, George Müller, David Brainerd, Henry Martyn, David Livingstone, Dr Arnold of Rugby, William Carey, &c., will always provide telling illustrations for Fellowship Meeting discussions. For other works helpful for Fellowship work, but of a more generally religious nature, the reader is referred to the section of this book dealing with books of religion and counsel.

### SYLLABUS FOR THE STORY OF "IN MEMORIAM."

The following syllabus for the study of Tennyson's "In Memoriam" was prepared by the Rev. A. Middleton, B.D., and used by the Bible Class of St Margaret's Parish, Arbroath, during the winter of 1892-93. It is useful in itself, and as suggesting what can be done in the way of such schemes of study for Societies:—

- I. The Theme of the Poem, i.—xxvii.  
Opening Invocation.  
First Shock of Grief, 1—8.  
The Ship and the Grave, 9—20.  
Love Still Lives, 21—27.
- II. The Cycle of the Past, xxviii.—lxxvii.  
First Christmas-Tide, 28—30.  
Reason and Revelation, 31—37.  
The Heavenly and the Earthly Life, 40—65.  
Anniversary of Death, 72—77.
- III. The Cycle of the Present, lxxviii.—ciii.  
Longing for Communion, 78—83.  
Peace with All, 84—89.  
Mystical Communion Realised, 90—98.  
Farewell to the Old Home, 99—103.
- IV. The Cycle of the Future, civ.—cxxxii.  
Christmas-Tide, 104—108.  
Hallam's Character, 109—114.  
Springtide, 115—116.  
The Work of Time, 117—118.  
Retrospect, 120—123.  
Victory of Love, 124—128.  
Concluding Invocation, 129—131.
- V. Epilogue: The Far Future.

### GOOD LITERARY SYLLABUSES.

#### A Mixed Syllabus.

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|---------|--|
| Oct. 5. | Opening Social Meeting.  |
| " 12.   | Lecture: "John Ruskin as a Social Reformer."                     |
| " 19.   | Essay: "David Livingstone."                                      |
| " 26.   | Debate: "Ought we to have Con-<br>scription in Great Britain?"   |
| Nov. 2. | Six Five-Minutes' Papers: "My<br>Most Pleasant Holiday."         |
| " 9.    | Mock Municipal Election.   |
| " 16.   | Visit from Neighbouring Literary<br>Society.                     |
| " 23.   | Essay: "Thomas Carlyle."   |
| " 30.   | Debate: "Have we too many Peri-<br>odicals?"                     |
| Dec. 7. | Discussion: To-Day's Newspapers.                                 |
| " 14.   | Essay: "Thomas Alva Edison."                                     |
| " 21.   | Hat Subjects.  |
| " 28.   | Lantern Lecture: "A Tour in the<br>Emerald Isle."                |
| Jan. 4. | Musical Evening.   |
| " 11.   | Six Short Papers: "My Favourite<br>Book."                        |
| " 18.   | Essay: "Tennyson's 'In Memo-<br>riam.'"                          |
| " 25.   | Debate: "Should Parliament Enact<br>an Eight Hours Working Day?" |
| Feb. 1. | Readings, Recitations, &c.                                       |
| " 8.    | Lecture: "Recent Arctic Explora-<br>tion."                       |
| " 15.   | Essay: "George Meredith."  |
| " 22.   | Debate: "Should the Half-Time<br>System be Abolished?"           |
| Mar. 1. | Manuscript Magazine.   |
| " 8.    | Essay: "The Poetry of William<br>Watson."                        |
| " 15.   | Debate: "Should Members of Par-<br>liament be Paid?"             |
| " 22.   | Dramatic Performance.  |
| " 29.   | Closing "At Home."   |

#### Syllabus for Course Discussing Victorian Literature.

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|----------|--|
| Oct. 13. | Lecture: "The Spirit of the Vic-<br>torian Age."                                 |
| " 27.    | Essay: "Alfred Tennyson."  |
| Nov. 10. | Essay: "Charles Darwin."   |
| " 24.    | Readings from Victorian Poets.   |
| Dec. 8.  | Essay: "Charles Dickens."  |
| " 22.    | Essay: "William Makepeace Thack-<br>eray."                                       |
| Jan. 5.  | Humorous Readings from Victorian<br>Literature.                                  |
| " 19.    | Essay: "Robert Browning."  |
| Feb. 2.  | Essay: "Thomas Carlyle."   |
| " 16.    | Lecture: "The Drama during the<br>Victorian Era."                                |
| Mar. 2.  | Essay: "Robert Louis Stevenson."   |
| " 16.    | Six Short Papers: "My Favourite<br>Modern Novel" (confined to last<br>25 years). |
| " 30.    | Essay: "The Kailyard School."  |

### LENG'S GARDEN BOOK.

This popular book has now been reprinted, and copies may be had from newsagents and booksellers, price sixpence each, or the book will be sent by post direct from the publishers for 7d in stamps.

"Leng's Garden Book" is one of the most practical manuals ever written. It is the work of a professional gardener, and will be found invaluable to the owner of a small garden.

## HELPFUL BOOKS FOR ESSAYISTS AND SPEAKERS.

"Public Speaking and Debate: A Manual for Advocates and Agitators," by George Jacob Holyoake (T. Fisher Unwin, 3s 6d). An excellent book; probably the best of its kind; clear and practical; abounding with apt illustrations.

"The Elements of Rhetoric," by Archbishop Whately (Longmans, 4s 6d). Another admirable book. These two volumes go to the root of the matter. To master them is an education, the value of which is not confined to improvement in public speaking.

"The Debater." Outlines for Debate and Questions for Discussion. By Frederick Rowton. (Longmans, 6s.)

"Handbook for Literary and Debating Societies," by Laurence M. Gibson, M.A. (Hodder & Stoughton, 3s 6d; cheaper edition, 1s 6d) These two books give outlines of the arguments for a great number of debates, and in many cases will be very useful. In educative value, however, they do not stand so high as the two works first recommended.

"Practical Essays." By Professor Alexander Bain. Gives valuable hints. (Longmans, 2s.)

"A College Manual of Rhetoric." By Charles Sears Baldwin, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric in Yale University. (Longmans, 4s 6d.)

"How to Write Clearly," by Rev. Edwin A. Abbott, D.D. (Seeley & Co.; 1s 6d.) An excellent book of rules and exercises on English composition.

"The Queen's English," by the late Dean Alford. (George Bell & Sons, 1s 6d.) "A manual of idiom and usage."

"Principles of the Art of Conversation," by Professor Mahaffy. (Macmillan, 4s 6d.)

Messrs Browne and Behnke's "Voice, Song, and Speech." (Sampson Low, 5s.)

"The Cultivation of the Speaking Voice," by Dr John Hullah. (Clarendon Press, 2s 6d.)

"A Guide to Public Meetings," by James Taylor. (Effingham Wilson, 2s 6d.)

"The Young Debater," by Samuel Neil. (Houlston, 1s.)

"English Composition and Rhetoric," by Professor Bain. (Longmans, 4s; also enlarged edition in two parts, 3s 6d each.)

"Speaking," by the Rev. Dr Mair, Earlston. (Blackwood & Sons, 2s 6d.) Pithy and practical advice. A useful volume.

Logic Primer, by Professor W. S. Jevons. (Macmillan, 1s.)

"The Art of Extempore Speaking," by M. Bautain. (Crosby Lockwood & Co., 2s 6d.) Translated from the French; thoroughly practical.

"Principles of Public Speaking," by Guy Carleton Lee, Ph. D. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 7s 6d.) The work of an American Professor very exhaustive. Deals with the technique of articulation, phrasing, emphasis, the cure of vocal defects, the elements of gesture, public reading, extemporaneous speaking, debate, and Parliamentary law.

"Conditions of Success in Preaching Without Notes," by Richard S. Storris, D.D., LL.D., of Brooklyn, New York. Gives many valuable hints.

"Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases." Classified and arranged so as to facilitate the expression of ideas and assist in literary composition. By Peter Mark Roget, M.D., F.R.S. Recompiled throughout, enlarged, and improved, by the author's son, John Lewis Roget. (Longmans, 9s net.) This book cannot be too highly praised. It enables the writer or speaker to select the right word.

"Voice Production and the Phonetics of Declamation," by J. C. Newlands, Lecturer of Elocution, New College, Edinburgh. (Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier, 2s 6d net.)

"On the Art of Public Speaking and Reading," by Professor Knight. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, two-pence.)

"The Common-sense of Voice Development," from both the Artistic and Medical point of view, with practical hints and physical exercises. By Irene San Carolo and Patrick Daniel. (Baillière, Tindall, & Co., 5s net.)

"How to Reason; or, The ABC of Logic Reduced to Practice in analysing Essays, Speeches, Books," by Rev. Richard C. Bodkin, C.M. (Browne & Nolan, Ltd., Dublin: cloth, 1s 6d net; paper covers, 1s net.)

"How to Speak Effectively," by Charles Seymour. (Routledge, 3s.)

"Notes on Speech-Making," by Brander Matthews. (Longmans, 1s 6d net.)

"Effective Speaking and Writing," by the Rev. John Darlington. (Allenson, 1s 6d.)

"The Making of an Orator," by John O'Connor Power. (Methuen, 6s.)

"The Art of Thinking," by T. Sharper Knowlson. (Warne, 2s 6d.)



## RUSKIN ON READING.

### THE GREAT THINKER'S ADVICE.

All books are divisible into two classes, the books of the hour, and the books of all time. Mark this distinction—it is not one of quality only. It is not merely the bad book that does not last, and the good one that does. It is a distinction of species. There are good books for the hour, and good ones for all time; bad books for the hour, and bad ones for all time. I must define the two kinds before I go further.

The good book of the hour, then—I do not speak of the bad ones—is simply the useful or pleasant talk of some person whom you cannot otherwise converse with, printed for you. Very useful often, telling you what you need to know; very pleasant often, as a sensible friend's present talk would be. These bright accounts of travels; good-humoured and witty discussions of questions; lively or pathetic story-telling in the form of novel; firm fact-telling, by the real agents concerned in the events of passing history—all these books of the hour, multiplying among us as education becomes more general, are a peculiar characteristic and possession of the present age: we ought to be entirely thankful for them, and entirely ashamed of ourselves if we make no good use of them. But we make the worst possible use, if we allow them to usurp the place of true books: for, strictly speaking, they are not books at all, but merely letters or newspapers in good print. Our friend's letter may be delightful, or necessary, to-day: whether worth keeping or not, is to be considered. The newspaper may be entirely proper at breakfast time, but assuredly it is not reading for all day. So, though bound up in a volume, the long letter which gives you so pleasant an account of the inns, and roads, and weather last year at such a place, or which tells you that amusing story, or gives you the real circumstances of such and such events, however valuable for occasional reference, may not be, in the real sense of the word, a "book" at all, nor, in the real sense, to be "read." A book is essentially not a talking thing, but a written thing; and written, not with the view of mere communication, but of permanence. The book of talk is printed only because its author cannot speak to thousands of people at once; if he could, he would—the volume is mere *multiplication* of his voice. You cannot talk to your friend in India; if you could, you would; you write

instead: that is mere *conveyance* of voice. But a book is written, not to multiply the voice merely, not to carry it merely, but to preserve it. The author has something to say which he perceives to be true and useful, or helpfully beautiful. So far as he knows, no one has yet said it; so far as he knows, no one else can say it. He is bound to say it, clearly and melodiously if he may; clearly, at all events. In the sum of his life he finds this to be the thing, or group of things, manifest to him—this the piece of true knowledge, or sight which his share of sunshine and earth has permitted him to seize. He would fain set it down forever; engrave it on rock, if he could: saying, "This is the best of me; for the rest, I ate, and drank, and slept, loved, and hated, like another: my life was as the vapour, and is not; but this I saw and knew; this, if anything of mine, is worth your memory." That is his "writing;" it is, in his small human way, and with whatever degree of true inspiration is in him, his inscription, or scripture. That is a "Book."

Perhaps you think no books were ever so written?

But, again, I ask you, do you at all believe in honesty, or at all in kindness? or do you think there is never any honesty or benevolence in wise people? None of us, I hope, are so unhappy as to think that. Well, whatever bit of a wise man's work is honestly and benevolently done, that bit is his book or his piece of art. It is mixed always with evil fragments—ill-done, redundant, affected work. But if you read rightly, you will easily discover the true bits, and those are the book.

Now, books of this kind have been written in all ages by their greatest men—by great leaders, great statesmen, and great thinkers. These are all at your choice; and life is short. You have heard as much before—yet have not measured and mapped out this short life and its possibilities? Do you know, if you read this, that you cannot read that—that what you lose to-day you cannot gain to-morrow? Will you go and gossip with your housemaid, or your stable boy, when you may talk with Queens and Kings; or flatter yourselves that it is with any worthy consciousness of your own claims to respect that you jostle with the common crowd for *entree* here and audience there, when all the while this eternal court is open to you, with its society wide as the world, multitudinous as its days, the chosen, and the mighty, of every place and time? Into that

you may enter always; in that you may take fellowship and rank according to your wish; from that, once entered into it, you can never be outcast but by your own fault; by your aristocracy of companionship, there, your own inherent aristocracy will be assuredly tested, and the motives with which you strive to take high place in the society of the living, measured, as to all the truth and sincerity that are in them, by the place you desire to take in this company of the Dead.

"The place you desire," and the place you *fit yourself for*, I must also say; because, observe, this court of the past differs from all living aristocracy in this—it is open to labour and to merit, but to nothing else. No wealth will bribe, no name overawe, no artifice deceive, the guardian of those Elysian gates. In the deep sense, no vile or vulgar person ever enters there. At the portières of that silent Faubourg St Germain, there is but brief question, "Do you deserve to enter?" "Pass. Do you ask to be the companion of nobles? Make yourself noble, and you shall be. Do you long for the conversation of the wise? Learn to understand it, and you shall hear it. But on other terms?—no. If you will not rise to us, we cannot stoop to you. The living lord may assume courtesy, the living philosopher explain his thought to you with considerate pain; but here we neither feign nor interpret; you must rise to the level of our thoughts if you would be gladdened by them, and share our feelings, if you would recognise our presence."

This, then, is what you have to do, and I admit that it is much. You must, in a word, love these people, if you are to be amongst them. No ambition is of any use. They scorn your ambition. You must love them, and show your love in these two following ways.

1. First, by a true desire to be taught by them, and to enter into their thoughts. To enter into theirs, observe; not to find your own expressed by them. If the person who wrote the book is not wiser than you, you need not read it; if he be, he will think differently from you in many respects.

Very ready we are to say of a book, "How good this is—that's exactly what I think!" But the right feeling is, "How strange that is! I never thought of that before, and yet I see it is true; or if I do not now, I hope I shall, some day." But whether thus submissively or not, at least be sure that you go to the author to get at *his* meaning, not to find yours. Judge it afterwards, if you

think yourself qualified to do so, but ascertain it first. And be sure also, if the author is worth anything, that you will not get at his meaning all at once—nay, that at his whole meaning you will not for a long time arrive in any wise. Not that he does not say what he means and in strong words too; but he cannot say it all; and what is more strange, will not, but in a hidden way and in parables, in order that he may be sure you want it. I cannot quite see the reason of this, nor analyse that cruel reticence in the breasts of wise men which makes them always hide their deeper thought. They do not give it you by way of help, but of reward, and will make themselves sure that you deserve it before they allow you to reach it. But it is the same with the physical type of wisdom, gold. There seems, to you and me, no reason why the electric forces of the earth should not carry whatever there is of gold within it at once to the mountain-tops, so that kings and people might know that all the gold they could get was there; and without any trouble of digging, or anxiety, or chance, or waste of time, cut it away, and coin as much as they needed. But Nature does not manage it so. She puts it in little fissures in the earth, nobody knows where; you may dig long and find none; you must dig painfully to find any.

And it is just the same with men's best wisdom. When you come to a good book, you must ask yourself, "Am I inclined to work as an Australian miner would? Are my pick-axes and shovels in good order, and am I in good trim myself, my sleeves well up to the elbow, and my breath good, and my temper?" And, keeping the figure a little longer, even at cost of tiresomeness, for it is a thoroughly useful one, the metal you are in search of being the author's mind or meaning, his words are as the rock which you have to crush and smelt in order to get at it. And your pick-axes are your own care, wit, and learning; your smelting furnace is your own thoughtful soul. Do not hope to get at any good author's meaning without those tools and that fire; often you will need sharpest, finest chiselling, and patientest fusing, before you can gather one grain of the metal.

And, therefore, first of all, I tell you earnestly and authoritatively (I *know* I am right in this), you must get into the habit of looking intensely at words, and assuring yourself of their meaning, syllable by syllable—nay, letter by letter. For though it is only by reason of the opposition of letters

In the function of signs, to sounds in function of signs, that the study of books is called "literature," and that a man versed in it is called, by the consent of nations, a man of letters instead of a man of books, or of words, you may yet connect with that accidental nomenclature: this real principle—that you might read all the books in the British Museum (if you could live long enough), and remain an utterly "illiterate," uneducated person; but that if you read ten pages of a good book, letter by letter—that is to say, with real accuracy—you are for evermore in some measure an educated person. The entire difference between education and non-education (as regards the merely intellectual part of it) consists in this accuracy. A well-educated gentleman may not know many languages, may not be able to speak any but his own, may have read very few books. But whatever language he knows, he knows precisely: whatever word he pronounces he pronounces rightly: above all he is learned in the *peerage* of words; knows the words of true descent and ancient blood, at a glance, from words of modern canaille; remembers all their ancestry—their intermarriages, distantest relationships, and the extent to which they were admitted, and offices they held, among the national noblesse of words at any time, and in any country. But an uneducated person may know by memory any number of languages, and talk them all, and yet truly know not a word of any—not a word even of his own. An ordinarily clever and sensible seaman will be able to make his way ashore at most ports; yet he has only to speak a sentence of any language to be known for an illiterate person; so also as the accent, or turn of expression of a single sentence will at once mark a scholar. And this is so strongly felt, so conclusively admitted by educated persons, that a false accent or a mistaken syllable is enough, in the Parliament of any civilised nation, to assign to a man a certain degree of inferior standing for ever.

And this is right; but it is a pity that the accuracy insisted on is not greater, and required to a serious purpose. It is right that a false Latin quantity should excite a smile in the House of Commons; but it is wrong that a false English meaning should not excite a frown there. Let the accent of words be watched, by all means, but let their meaning be watched more closely still, and fewer will do the work. A few words well chosen and well distinguished will do work that a thousand cannot, when

every one is acting, equivocally, in the function of another.

The foregoing is taken from the lecture entitled "Of King's Treasuries," published in "Sesame and Lilies," which can now be had at almost nominal cost. The whole of this book of Ruskin's should be carefully studied by all who desire to read to the highest advantage.

#### A RESOURCEFUL ORATOR.

During the agitation preceding the revolt of the American colonies, the great American orator was Patrick Henry. Speaking once in a great colonial meeting, which he was carrying along with him in his vehement denunciations of the policy of George III. and his Government, he suddenly went beyond himself. "Cæsar," he said, "had his Brutus, Charles the First had his Cromwell, and George the Third—" Ere he could finish the perilous sentence, the audience caught the alarm, and "Treason! Treason!" rang from every part of the hall where there were any loyalists. The orator stopped for a moment, and then slowly, but with a voice that quelled the uproar, repeated the words, Cæsar, I say, had his Brutus, Charles the First had his Cromwell, and George the Third—may profit by their example."

#### HOW TO DEAL WITH LONG-WINDED ORATORS.

A certain Debating Society for a considerable time was not a success. Everybody wanted to debate at once; worse still, everybody wanted to debate all the time. The speeches grew to such unconscionable length that drastic measures to shorten them became necessary in the interests of the suffering members. The Chairman was at once both humorous and practical. He proposed that all speakers should be required to stand on one leg while speaking, and should close their remarks immediately they failed to preserve their equilibrium. The idea caught on. The result was that the Society became extremely popular, although it sometimes happened that a member was closed by falling to the floor while in the very middle of a telling and solemn peroration.

Books—the miracle of all my possessions, more wonderful than the wishing-cup of the Arabian tales, for they transport me instantly, not only to all places, but to all times.—Arnott.



### DRAMATIC SOCIETIES.

Dramatic Societies are of very diverse kinds. They may range from a small gathering of a few friends brought together for the practical study of dramatic literature to Societies with a big membership, giving fully-staged reproductions of plays before large audiences. Informal Dramatic Societies are often called into being in order to provide a bright item in the programme of a concert or social meeting in connection with a church or other body in the shape of a dramatic sketch. The preparation for such performances is undoubtedly a source of much pleasure and profit to those taking part. The initial difficulty is the choice of a suitable piece to be enacted. Unless one of the party is acquainted with a piece to meet the purpose it will be well to write to a publisher of such literature for a catalogue. The best firm of the kind so far as an all-round choice is concerned is Samuel French, Ltd., theatrical publishers, 89 Strand, London, W.C. In order to facilitate the making of a choice this firm publishes a descriptive catalogue in addition to their ordinary list, and from this a good idea of the nature of the various plays can be obtained. Messrs William Walker & Sons, Victoria Works, Otley, Yorkshire, publish a large selection of Sunday school dialogues and recitations, humorous dialogues, temperance dialogues, parlour plays, and the like at moderate prices. Their catalogue shows the number and sex of the characters required for each piece, and in many cases gives a good idea of the nature of the plot. Messrs Heywood, Manchester, also publish many pieces suitable for amateur reproduction.

Another good publishing firm for this class of literature is Mr John Dicks, 313 Strand, London. For a stamp he will send a catalogue of over twelve hundred Penny Plays, which can be performed without payment of any fee or without infringing any rights, and of charades for home representation. These plays contain full stage directions, exits and entrances, relative positions, cast of characters, costumes, &c.

In cases where it is not expressly stated that plays can be performed without fee, it will be necessary to write to the publishers or others holding the rights of the piece to obtain permission. As a rule permission is easily obtainable for amateur performances.

"People's Parlour Plays," published in the same series of penny handbooks to which the present volume belongs, is a remarkably cheap volume, which has

proved of great value to lovers of amateur theatricals. The eight pieces which it contains are particularly suited for reproduction in the home. They are simple, and little or no scenery is required.

Having fixed upon a piece, the members should set about mastering it thoroughly. They should make themselves absolutely clear as to the meaning of every passage, and make sure of the correct pronunciation of every word. If a performance is to be given in public frequent rehearsals should be held. Each member should endeavour to enter fully into the spirit of the character he is representing, and then act as his intelligence directs. The more natural one's manner is the better.

"Making-up" for a piece is always an interesting occupation for an amateur, and is in itself productive of much amusement. For the practical details of the art, it will be well to consult such a book as Mr S. J. Adair Fitz-Gerald's "How to Make Up," which is published by Messrs French.

A Dramatic Society depends for its success upon the loyalty of its members. Rehearsals must be faithfully attended. It is well, in fact, that the rules should specify fines for late arrival or for non-attendance at rehearsals. Considering that the absence of one member may cause a wasted evening for the others, it is right that such a rule should be firmly enforced. Of course, due weight must be given to any legitimate excuse. The allotting of the parts should be done by a non-acting member. When acting members are allowed to choose their parts trouble usually follows. In addition to the Secretary and the Committee, a Dramatic Society requires a stage manager, a property manager, and a prompter. The stage manager and the prompter must be loyally obeyed.

### THE CHIEF FAULT OF SPEAKERS.

I have asked certain friends, who know far more about public meetings than I do, to tell me the chief fault of speakers. They invariably answer—lengthiness. Very few speeches are delivered which would not be improved by curtailment. The reason for lengthiness is to be found often in the fact that the speaker has not prepared his conclusion. The words flow from him as treacle flows from a cask, in a thin, unending stream. Wherefore it is well to consider carefully how a speech should end, and to put in the closing part something of the pith, the point, the force, the passion, that carry an argument home.—"Claudius Clear" in the "British Weekly."

**HINTS TO AMATEUR RECITERS.**

(1) Select your recitations with judgment. As far as possible choose unhackneyed pieces of the style best suited to your own elocutionary powers.

(2) Train your memory. Do not recite a piece in public until you have studied it carefully and learnt it by rote and by heart.

(3) Acquire a graceful and easy position before your audience. Learn how to stand erect and still.

(4) Learn how to use a pause with effect. A judicious pause is grandly effective when used by a good reciter.

(5) Your facial expression (as well as your voice) should convey your story to the audience. The true artist feels what he is reciting, and knows how much depends on this.

(6) Do not make a gesture unless it is really needed, and unless it prove a help both to yourself and to your audience.

(7) Aim at elevating your audience by having a high ideal. Do not recite a piece for the sake of getting an encore.

(8) Remember that musical accompaniment to recitation is introduced as a help, not as a hindrance.

(9) The music must be subservient to the recitation. The audience must feel that it helps to interpret the recitation.

(10) If unable to introduce music yourself when reciting, be sure to get a musician who understands and is in sympathy with your recitation.

(11) Do not be a copyist. The best reciters owe more to natural gifts than to models. Your own personality must play an important part. It is better to create than to copy.

(12) If you wish to attain the simply grand as a dramatic reciter, begin by being grandly simple.—“The Queen.”

**A CLEVER RETORT.**

It is a most valuable thing for a speaker to possess the faculty of ready repartee. Mr Bennet Burleigh, the war correspondent, was in 1885 Radical candidate for the Govan Division of Lanarkshire. He was subjected to much heckling, but he more than held his own. At a meeting of the workers in the shipyard of the late Sir William Pearce, the Conservative candidate, one of the men, a Liberal, wanted to know why Mr Burleigh, if he were an honest Radical, wrote for the “Daily Telegraph.” “Just for the same reason,” replied Burleigh, “as you, another honest Radical, work in the yard of a Conservative shipbuilder.” The heckler collapsed, amidst roars of laughter.

**MUSICAL EVENINGS AND SOCIAL MEETINGS.**

The prosperous Society will be found to be continually brightening its syllabus, and there are few more successful means towards this end than the introduction of such varieties as musical evenings and social meetings at intervals. Such pleasant breaks in the more sober routine of the session can usually be easily arranged. The best way perhaps is to appoint a Committee of two or three to take charge of the proceedings on the evening in question. If a social meeting, there will be a service of tea, and then a programme of music and recitations. The addition of a short dramatic performance by one or two of the members often contributes greatly to the success of the gathering. The Committee should see that the programme is arranged beforehand. Vocal music, instrumental music, readings, recitations, &c., should be judiciously blended, so as to give variety to the whole. In regard to musical evenings, it is no bad plan to give an individual member charge of the arrangements. If one in possession of numerous musical friends is chosen, he will usually manage to provide an attractive programme. A very good evening's entertainment may be provided where a member of the Society reads an essay upon a famous song writer or on a period of song, and musical illustrations are given by other members endowed with vocal talents.

**ABOUT BOOKS.**

Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings.—Socrates.

The writings of the wise are the only riches our posterity cannot squander.—Landor.

It is chiefly through books that we enjoy intercourse with superior minds.—Channing.

The novel, in its best form, I regard as one of the most powerful engines of civilisation ever invented.—Herschel.

The value of a book consists, not in what it will do for our amusement, but in what it will communicate.—Grindon.

Would you know whether the tendency of a book is good or evil? Examine in what state of mind you lay it down.—Southey.

He who writes for fools finds an enormous audience. Of bad books we can never read too little; of the good never too much.—Schopenhauer.

There is no enjoyment to equal the enjoyment of the great intellectual treasures which are always at hand and always at our disposal.—Cockburn.

# LENG'S PENNY HANDBOOKS

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